

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 123, Vol. V.

Saturday, May 6, 1865.

{ Price Fourpence.
{ Stamped, Fivepence.

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SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1865.

INTERNATIONAL AMENITIES.

STARTLING and horrible events have rapidly succeeded each other during the past few days. Among them is one which, fortunately for mankind, has seldom been paralleled. We should hope never again to be sickened and dismayed by a telegram like that which conveyed the tidings of the perpetration of horrible crimes in Washington. Deplorable as is the untimely death of Mr. Lincoln, the sight of a great continent plunged into mourning is a spectacle hardly less saddening. To mourn the dead is a natural impulse. To console the survivors is a duty which Nature prompts us to undertake, but which Reason whispers is one which it is impossible to discharge with satisfaction. With the knowledge, then, that the words of truest sympathy are powerless to carry consolation home to mourning hearts, and convinced that the darkness of a great loss can never be dispelled by tenderest words or most considerate acts, we still feel that in expressing heartfelt sympathy we lighten our overcharged minds. The truest mourners are often particular that no mark of respect to the departed should be left unpaid. They regard trifles as more important than they really are. Whether, like the savages, they gash their faces, or, like civilized men, they change their garments, they attach great weight to the minute observance of whatever it has been customary to do under similar circumstances. Regarded in a philosophical spirit, there is much which is childish and foolish in the conduct of those who mourn. Outward symbol is, after all, no token of inward sorrow. Perhaps there is more mockery in the mourning garb than in anything else. Certainly there are many who scrupulously wear black clothes merely in order to make a parade before the world; but before we can prevent this we must root out hypocrisy from the human breast and extirpate female vanity.

What applies to the case of a private person does not apply when the mourners are numbered by millions, and when the deceased is the elected ruler over a continent. Here there is no cause for sham grief. In a case like this the sympathy manifested by the people of other lands is as welcome to its objects as it is honourable to those who display it. From no country could such a manifestation come more appropriately than from our own, because it is in England that the good qualities of the deceased President of the United States were least recognized, while his failings were most eagerly pointed out and condemned. Parliament, for once in our day, has had the audacity to establish a precedent. It has voted an address to the Crown to request the transmission to the United States Government of the national

commiseration for the loss America has sustained. Moreover, the Queen has sent a letter of condolence to Mrs. Lincoln. While rejoicing at each of these acts, we must protest against some of the comments which have been made on them. Parliament has done its duty, and the Queen has obeyed the kindly promptings of her heart. Should either Parliament or the Queen be made on these grounds the objects of extravagant laudation? Language of this kind excites suspicion. It may not be used in the same spirit, but the impression made is the same as that produced by those who, bursting with pride, talk of themselves in studied terms of exaggerated humility. When Parliament and the Queen are so praised, it does seem as if it were done with a view of indirectly reflecting credit on us as a nation for acting in a rational manner.

The mere fact of the Queen's having written a letter of condolence is one which hardly calls for mention, far less for eulogy. That eulogy should be vented at all, suggests many disheartening thoughts. In the middle of the nineteenth century, notwithstanding all their professions of enlightenment, many Englishmen seem to be still swathed in the bonds of old-world prejudices. Apparently they have not yet shaken off the innocent faith of childhood—that a sovereign is really exalted by nature as well as in rank. The very simple truth that those who occupy thrones are but human beings, is not yet apprehended by many men. In consequence of this, we find some who are otherwise well-informed, in utter darkness concerning whatever appertains to royalty. We fear that if the occupant of the Throne were now to indulge in any vice, thousands would follow the fashion. Indeed, it is almost painful to observe how much more rapid has been the acquirement of common sense by men of rank than by commoners. Our nobility no longer set great store on acting in menial capacities at Court. Nor do sovereigns any longer exact from persons of refinement services which others, who are neither fastidious nor refined, are better qualified for rendering. These changes are steps towards a state of things in harmony with the age in which we live. Loyalty towards the occupant of the Throne is not inseparably connected with appearing at Court in a masquerade dress, or of stepping backwards when leaving the Sovereign's presence. The excuse for this empty pageantry has accompanied the doctrine of "Divine Right" into oblivion. We do not despair of living to see the entire remodelling of antiquated arrangements, and the introduction of practices at once simple and rational.

No sovereign has made a greater advance in this path than the Emperor of France. He feels that his dignity is not lowered by acting and writing like an ordinary mortal. It is but the other day that he wrote a letter of condolence to the widow of Richard Cobden. Our own Queen has worthily followed his example by writing to Mrs. Lincoln. Yet these acts are but earnest of what ought to be done. Nothing is more desirable than peace and good-will between nation and nation, and nothing tends more to hinder the continuance of both than the walls of

separation raised by courtly traditions between the nations of the world. In the hands of sovereigns are the issues of peace or war. By the people the sufferings of war are borne, and the blessings of peace enjoyed; but the body of the people has seldom any voice in the question whether war is to be declared or peace concluded. True, the individual feelings of sovereigns have far less weight or influence now, than in former times. Besides, in this country there are substantial checks on the active interference of the Sovereign in international disputes. Nevertheless, the predilections of our Sovereign have some effect in directing the course of our policy. To this we owe it, in some measure, that we have not been engaged in a bootless war on behalf of Denmark, and are not likely to be plunged into hostilities with the United States. It has been generally supposed, in America, that the Queen was favourable to the cause of the North, and this supposition has done much to allay animosities excited by the writings and speeches of those who in this country have sided with the South. There can be no doubt that the autograph letter which Her Majesty has sent to Mrs. Lincoln will contribute to soothe those Americans who consider that they have reason for being exasperated against England.

We desire to see the repetition of similar acts of courtesy and manifestations of friendship. Despite all the facility of locomotion, it is extraordinary how little nations know of the real feelings of their neighbours towards them. When one sovereign boasts of the magnitude and valour of his armies, and another of the omnipotence of his fleets, neither means anything more than the merchant who boasts that his safe will resist the attacks of burglars. The feeling of fighting for its own sake, is a feeling which, among civilized rulers, the King of Prussia alone excepted, is daily growing weaker. The demonstrations of this and other countries on the occasion of the "foul, bloody, and unnatural" deeds which have recently been perpetrated at Washington, are significant indications that nations can delight in other things than challenging each other to fight. The day of universal disarming is still in a remote future. We cannot yet afford submissively to turn our cheeks to the smiter. But none the less ought we to strive to hasten the time when war shall be accounted the pastime of savages only. The surest way to bring about improvements is to believe in their possibility. The most rational mode in which nations can learn to love one another is by striving to understand each other, to seize every opportunity to be courteous, to shun every temptation to be wrathful. Perseverance in a course which habit would make easy to pursue, when the prejudices against entering upon it were once overcome, would eventually lead to the triumph of universal amity over universal suspicion. We may not see, yet we may at least long for the coming of the day foreseen in vision by the poet:—

When the war drums throb no longer, and the
battle-flags are furled
In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of
the World.
Then the common sense of most shall hold a
fretful realm in awe,
And the nations all shall slumber, lapt in uni-
versal law.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

A POPULAR REVIEWER.

Mornings of the Recess; 1861-64. A Series of Biographical and Literary Papers, Reprinted, by permission, from The Times. (Tinsley Brothers.)

WE all know who at Rome was rhetorician, painter, boxer, augur, Blondin, and the Brothers Davenport all in one. The part of the Græculus esuriens is now played in London by the popular reviewer. *Omnia nescit*. He is an encyclopædia. Tom Sayers is not beneath his notice, nor Mill above it. He will instruct one in boxing, and the other in political economy. He will slap one in the face, and pat the other on the back; and he will be surprised if either should resent his attentions as an insult.

His style, it is needless to say, belongs to the rollicking, fast school. He is on good terms with all the world, but especially with himself. He fires off cheap knowledge; wears the famous sword of Damocles constantly by his side; and has always the coffin of Mahomet suspended in the air. With these two weapons he annihilates all the world. For our part, we wish that the famous sword were reverently placed in the coffin, and that the latter were decently buried.

Looked at more in detail, his style is decidedly composite. It is plastered over with quotations considerably the worse for wear. The mud of the Seine defiles his well of English. For learning he breaks out into slang, and persists in writing Siren with a y, because it looks more knowing. For humour he adopts the slap-in-the-back style, and wouldn't mind calling Her Majesty "Vic." Of real power of criticism he possesses none, for he has no knowledge but that which he gains from the book under review. If the author is wrong, he can't set him right; but if the author is right, he can often set him wrong. Then, like a second Phaeton, he "whips" him—

And brings in cloudy night immediately.

As for any philosophy, you might as well expect a knowledge of International Law from a policeman, or a churchwarden to refute the last German theory on St. John. But a popular reviewer despises philosophy. When in difficulties, he quotes his favourite Birmingham Latin, and for first principles comes back to his Stratford-at-Bow French. He, in fact, appeals to public ignorance. And the appeal is never in vain. Every one applauds him; and he may be said to live not so much by his wits, as by the want of wits in others.

In the columns of *The Times* the popular reviewer is, perhaps, seen to the best advantage. There he prophesies, and sits in judgment on mankind. There he utters mighty sayings, singing swanlike at the close of the article to some favoured Scotchman. We should not, of course, go out of our way to criticize our contemporary's style and method of reviewing, but these two volumes force the matter upon us. Most of their contents we have before seen—we can scarcely say read—as they appeared in *The Times*. They are now deemed worthy of being reprinted in a collected form; "revised," we are especially informed on the title page, "by the author;" and appeal to the bar of public criticism. *The Times* ranks undoubtedly high amongst our newspapers, though we hardly think with the author of these articles that future English history will be written from its and *Punch's* pages (vol. ii., 194). Aristophanes is not a safe authority in Athenian history, and the policy of *The Times* must be first understood by a historian before he can take it as his guide. The future historian, however, will have no difficulty in understanding its literary articles. The only question is whether he will ever take the trouble to read them.

We unfortunately have no such choice; and the first thing that appears to us upon looking at these volumes is that the author must be omniscient. There is some-

thing really awe-striking about a man who can discuss the architecture of our English cathedrals, and yet appreciate the delicacies of slang; who can readjust the English Constitution, and yet stoop to instruct Francatelli; who can sit in judgment on Bacon, and yet trifle with vacation tourists; who can in one page tittle-tattle about ladies of the bed-chamber, and in another lay down the law upon British numismatics. The Lord's Prayer has been written in the compass of a sixpence, and the *Iliad* packed into a nutshell, but here is all knowledge squeezed into two octavo volumes.

However, we take breath. And, as we read, the feeling of awe gives place to that of scepticism. We begin to be suspicious of the knowledge of a man who in a review of the King of Dahome can write *καλλιστότε ἀνὴρ* (sic vol. ii., 57), who speaks of a *fidus achates* (sic vol. i., 164), and who in a notice of Alexander Neckam can, without the slightest misgiving, follow suit in translating *ficedula* as a nuthatch (vol. ii., 183). We suddenly wake up to the conviction that we are in the hands of no Crichton, but our old friend, the popular reviewer, who can hardly be expected to pay much attention to such unimportant things as Greek accents and accurate translation. And here he is again, hawking all his cheap wares, performing his sleight-of-mind, and bawling out his Birmingham Latin and his Stratford-at-Bow French.

And first of all, let us take the popular reviewer's Birmingham Latin. Birmingham Latin, we may remark, is generally used by advertising tailors, and is supposed to give a classic aroma to an auctioneer's catalogue. It has a tremendous effect on weak minds, especially when there is a slight doggy odour. In these two volumes it smells to the best advantage. Thus, we hear of lectures *in extenso* (vol. i., 249), and painting things *in extenso* (vol. i., 304), about a *quondam* friend (vol. ii., 21), and a *bond fide* performance (vol. ii., 81). So, too, in reviewing "Francatelli's Cook's Guide," the reviewer writes: "If we turn to the 'Cook's Guide,' we find that this is not, however, the *magnum opus* on which the author rests his reputation in *secula seculorum*" (vol. i., 225). Doubtless cooks and scullions will think this very touching. We, however, have a prejudice in favour of plain English. Let us now examine specimens of the popular reviewer's Stratford-at-Bow French. It is, perhaps, easier learnt than Birmingham Latin, and is not so likely to be confounded by its admirers with Italian. It is especially patronized by young school-girls, and on their lips assumes a variety of pleasing sounds. It is supposed to give a chasteness and delicacy to our vulgar tongue. By it the popular reviewer flavours whole sentences, and brings all Paris before our eyes. Thus we read, with a kind of foreign air, how "ata roadside village a Paparefreshed himself *en passant*" (vol. ii., 257); of "the water engineer, *par excellence*, Sir Hugh Myddleton" (vol. i., 136); that "Neckam's botany is not very *recherché*" (vol. ii., 188). This last sentence is so very striking, that we are afraid nobody will look after its meaning. When is botany *recherché*? Does the phrase mean a botany that only regards *Anemone pulsatilla*, and ignores *A. nemerosa*? that will only look at *Osmunda regalis*, but despises *Pteris aquilina*?

But the popular reviewer's master-stroke of art is to unite Birmingham Latin to Stratford-at-Bow French with a stucco of English words. The effect is delicious. It is like Cerberus barking in "a leash of languages." Thus, in noticing the "Naturalist on the Amazons," the reviewer writes, "You meet with new specimens of animal life *ad infinitum*, but they do not appear to dazzle you *en masse*." (Vol. i., 116.) This may be called the piebald style. In fact, in consequence of the number of italicized foreign words which the reviewer uses, some of his pages have a speckled, leprous look.

And the popular reviewer's English is as fine as his French. Though it can hardly be called nervous or vigorous, it is very full-flavoured. Thus the reviewer vividly says,

"For almost a century the house of Grosvenor produced swells of the very finest water" (vol. ii., 340), and terms the young Napiers "fighting cocks of the finest feather." (Vol. ii., 262.) In the same strain he writes that Camden "made a superb shy" (vol. i. p. 72), meaning a guess; and he playfully calls a thing being known "getting wind." (Vol. i., 274.) Aristotle has been praised for the consummate tact with which he concludes his "Rhetoric." Our reviewer quite as gracefully takes his leave at the conclusion of his essay on Mr. Hotten's "Slang Dictionary," by assuring us that the beggar can read certain hieroglyphics, "of which you have never had a conception, and the very existence of which you have never noticed, but of which you will find a *fac-simile* in Mr. Hotten's volume, which will at least, my gentle friends, open your peepers for the rest of time." (Vol. i., 347.) A more congenial climax to such a theme it would be hard to imagine.

In the slap-on-the-back style, which is only a development of "my gentle friends" style, the popular reviewer is equally at home. It takes the place with him of humour. Some persons' idea of fun lies only in their hands. To poke you in the ribs or slap you on the back, is with them a delicious piece of wit. The reviewer does this as well as he can in print. In this vein he nicknames Mr. Bates "a respectable Briton" (vol. i., 124), and calls Neckam "Alexander" (vol. ii., 178), and the late Dr. Wilson "Jack" (vol. i., 238), and we wonder he does not call Bacon "Frank." In this Tom-and-Jerry vein, he addresses Mr. Evans, the well-known secretary of the Numismatic Society: "Well done, Evans; well done all of you." In this vein he compliments Bishop Philpots, "Brave old Henry of Exeter, yet extant, you are as memorable as Gauden, and we have heard that you can write as venerable a pamphlet." (Vol. ii., 110.) At this kind of writing criticism becomes simply changed into a feeling of disgust.

Need we say more? Need we add another word upon all the specimens of bad taste in these two volumes further than to note that the reviewer, when speaking of John Leech's death, writes, "The cruel nymphs have carried off the very Hylas of the arts, and we his loving friends stand weeping on the bank!" Would any man, except, perhaps, a statuery in the New-road, talk such stuff of a friend whom he had lost; except indeed the kind of man who thinks it fine to call a traveller "Viator" (vol. ii., 101), and witty to call Becket's well "a tap" (Vol. ii., 82)?

In vain have we searched through these volumes for anything like philosophic insight, wide views, and delicacy of style. Once only have we found anything approaching to criticism, where the reviewer describes the guests at some ambassador's as being in a state of "vinous exhilaration." The phrase is excellent. Compared to it, "intoxicated" is poor and weak.

CARLYLE'S FREDERICK THE GREAT

Life of Friedrich II., commonly called Frederick the Great. By Thomas Carlyle. Vols. V. and VI. (Chapman & Hall.)

WE are not about to give our readers, under pretence of reviewing Mr. Carlyle's last volumes, a slipshod summary of the Seven Years' War. Nor shall we waste our space in comments on the eccentricities of style wherewith a really great author has marred his *chef d'œuvre*. Mr. Carlyle is far too incurable for our remonstrance to affect him; nor should we allude to the vexed subject of his purposely strange language, but to put in a protest against a theory which certain admirers of his have lately set up, to the effect that his peculiarities are solely the result of his direct and earnest striving after truth. We will believe this whenever any one can show how an English writer, addressing English readers, can possibly advance the cause of truth by calling Bohemia Böhinen, Prussia Preussen, Maurice Moritz,

and Frederick Friedrich. Of course, this persistency in the use of the German versions of proper names hurts no one who knows a little German. Of course, the author himself would be sorry to limit the circle of his readers by excluding the ten thousand others whom he thus slightly mystifies; we presume he, without vanity, judges his book so valuable, that these will not be deterred from perusing it by the labour of getting up the necessary key. But that the practice is a mere trick, looking much like affectation, may be roundly asserted, when we see that the two provinces in which lie mainly the theatre of Frederick's great exploits are mentioned generally by their English names, as plain Saxony and Silesia, whilst Pomerania, Thuringia, and Moravia are needlessly disguised throughout as Pommern, Thüringen, and Mähren.

The work is a glorious contribution surely to the library of hero-worshippers. Never was great warrior so fortunate in his biographer. Frederick had a ready pen, and used it freely; and yet he, and the whole prolific band of German military writers, have made but little of his exploits as compared with what has here been done for them by an English student. Napoleon's fame for generalship owes much to the brilliancy of M. Thiers as a military historian; but in Carlyle we have a writer whose technical knowledge is far more trained and true than that of the French Académicien, whilst his descriptive power is as great, and his industry, research, and accuracy beyond all comparison higher. Hence it may truly be said that out of his work no one need go who wishes to know what Frederick was and how he fought. His deeds of audacity, quickness, and endurance, during his greatest campaigns, are worthily and fully chronicled in the fifth and sixth volumes; and it is easy to see, by the untiring heartiness with which the biographer follows his hero through the long wrestle of the Seven Years' War, that his military reputation is the dearest part of this "Last of the Kings" to his admirer. Recall Carlyle from some fierce but indefinite denunciation of the ways of this degenerate age; place him in spirit before the long confused lines at Kollin, or in front of the war-beset heights of Prague, or on the roof of the little squire's house at Rosbach, and he warms to his work at once, describes the scene, personages and all, as no other man can picture it, and tells the tale of the fight that follows as no other pen can tell it.

Nor is it only in the actual rush of battle that the reader becomes interested. The meaner and more common parts of the campaign glow into bright colours at the artist's touch. Marches, retreats, sieges, encampments, become vested each with its special value. Take as an example the motley army of the Circles and of France, under Soubise, flying from Rosbach. Could Dr. "Bull's Run" Russell himself, fresh from the scene of the rout, have told the story more graphically than we have it here from one who, thus describing, yet views the campaign as a whole with the accuracy drawn from a century's accumulated knowledge?

The flight, the French part of it, was towards Freiburg-bridge; in full gallop, long after the chase had ceased; crossing of the Unstrut there, hoarse, many-voiced, all night; burning of the bridge; found burnt, when Friedrich arrived next morning. He had encamped at Obschütz, short way from the field itself. French army, Reich's army, all was gone to staves, to utter chaotic wreck. Hildburghausen went by Naumburg; crossed the Saale there; bent homewards through the Weimar country; one wild flood of ruin, swift as it could go; at Erfurt "only one regiment was in rank, and marched through with drums beating." His army, which had been disgustingly unhappy from the first, and was now fallen fluid on these mad terms, flowed all away in different rills, each by the course straightest home; and Hildburghausen arriving at Bamberg, with hardly the ghost or mutilated skeleton of an army, flung down his truncheon—"A murrain on your Reich's armies and regimental chaozes!"—and went indignantly home. Reich's army had to begin at the be-

ginning again; and did not reappear on the scene till late next year, under a new commander, and with slightly improved conditions.

Dauphiness Proper [Carlylese for the French Contingent] was in no better case; and would have flowed home in like manner, had not home been so far, and the way unknown. Twelve thousand of them rushed straggling through the Eichsfeld; plundering and harrying, like Cossacks or Calmucks: "army blown asunder, over a circle of forty miles radius," writes St. Germain: "had the enemy pursued us, after I got broken" (burst in upon by Mayer and his Free Corps people), "we had been annihilated. Never did army behave worse; the first cannon salvo decided our route and our shame."

In two days time (November 7th), the French had got to Langensalza, fifty-five miles from the battlefield of Rosbach; plundering, running, *sacre-dieu-ing*; a wild deluge of molten wreck, filling the Eichsfeld with its waste noises, making night hideous and day too; in the villages, placards were stuck up, appointing Nordhausen and Heiligenstadt for rallying-place.

But enough of extracts. It is our purpose to look closely into that great fame which Carlyle has so proudly sung, and see on what it really rests. No question is here made of Frederick's political or personal morality, or his artistic and literary powers, or his "philosophical" views of other men's religion. It is the General who most of all is exalted in the "Life," and the causes of the wars in which he was plunged we pass by with a glance. The open robbery of Silesia from an unarmed neighbour, the secret attempts to add (in the War of the Austrian succession) the northern angle of Bohemia to that ill-gotten spoil, the utter disregard of all law and right in the seizure of Saxony in 1756, these are admitted in his earlier volumes by the candid biographer, who trusts to his hero's final triumph for the gilding over the spots thus revealed. With a few words of earnest protest against the hateful doctrine that success can justify political crime, we proceed to the consideration of Frederick's peculiarities as a general, and his claims from his military feats to take rank among the first of men.

Popular writers on this subject are apt to weigh his prowess in the field by an estimate of the enormity of the forces arrayed to crush him. Even Carlyle avails himself of such data as the 150,000,000 of hostile peoples, and the 430,000 soldiers actually under arms against Prussia, in order to exalt his hero. The open nature of his kingdom, and its apparent defenceless condition, are also much dwelt upon by his panegyrists. But in truth Frederick had certain great advantages, which should be made quite as prominent. Omitting the Swedes, whose hostility never seriously affected his condition, he was threatened, indeed, with destruction by three great Powers, each of which attempted its separate invasion. But their want of concert made them far less formidable than at first sight appears, whilst the central position of the defender, with his forces compactly placed between the lines of the Oder, whose fortresses checked the Russians; the Elbe, which barred the way to his enemies from France and her allies of the smaller States; and the Bohemian mountains, which the Austrians had to traverse on their advance, gave him a real advantage, of which, it must be added, he fully availed himself. Between these lines, the country was closely cultivated, full of supplies, and peopled by a race attached to their monarch, conditions highly favourable to his plan of defending his territories by rapid movements from one frontier to another, to confront and wrestle with each of his foes in turn, and thus, by activity, to double his lesser force.

Nor must it be forgotten that the French invasion never really pressed upon Frederick. His western flank was guarded by a mixed army, British-paid, and including a British contingent. Against this levy, acting first under Cumberland, and later under Ferdinand of Brunswick, the chief exertions of the French were spent. The rude shock of Minden checked them altogether for a time,

and when more successful under Richelieu, they were employed by him still in the Weser country, under pretence of occupying Hanover, but really in plundering for his own behoof. Thus throughout this long war France spared no more force for the real attack on Frederick than the contingent which, under the wretched Soubise, joined the Army of the Circles (the troops raised in the small States by decree of the Diet for the recovery of the Saxony), and by a ridiculous attempt to out-general him, gave their opponent the opportunity of inflicting on them the terrible defeat the issue of which we selected as our extract. After Rosbach this French contingent disappears, and the "Circles' Army," called by Carlyle justly "that miserable Reich's execution army," "the most inferior army in the world," made but one feeble invasion of Saxony, and with some Austrian help took Dresden, but ventured no more to meet the Prussians in the field.

A different sort of foe were the Russians! Grossjagersdorf, Zorndorf, Kunersdorf, successively reduced Frederick's available force, and gave bloody proof of that stubborn tenacity of their infantry which was hereafter to be abundantly illustrated at Eylau, Borodino, and Inkerman. Year after year they made their invasion, plundered (Berlin once falling under contribution), fought an obstinate battle, and retreated. But their generals made no serious attempt to occupy the country, partly because utterly destitute of the power of strategical combination, partly indeed from unwillingness to leave the well-defended fortresses of Frederick in their rear. On the battle-field their numbers and resolution alone made them formidable, for the infantry, though disciplined in European fashion, were wholly incapable of the active evolutions taught them later by Suwaroff, and knew no better than to hold together in one vast mass, a mere living target for Frederick's handily-moved army; whilst their artillery and horse, being yet in their mere infancy, were of no account in face of the veteran squadrons and smart batteries of their tormenting foe, and left the brunt of his efforts to fall on the unwieldy crowd of foot. In a well-known letter to Fouquet, which discusses the causes of his successes, Frederick himself passes over these episodes of the war with the remark, "As to the Russians, savage and ignorant, they are not worth speaking of."

If we have thus reduced the supposed dimensions of Frederick's difficulties in other directions, it is but to do his ability full justice as to the remaining foe. Austria alone should have been more than a match for her new enemy, had her resources been skilfully employed; and, distracted as Frederick's were to a considerable extent by her allies, her triumph would have been signal, but for his vast personal superiority to the opposing generals. Not that the career of the Prussian has any great similarity in its earlier portion to the meteor-like warfare of Napoleon. His triumph was only attained after long and painful lessons, mingled with many errors. At the beginning of the War of the Succession, we find him arranging his army for the battle of Mollwitz upon the old principles, artillery along the front, cavalry divided on the wings, and infantry in a long deep line in centre, without reference to the ground, and flying himself, with his beaten horse, whilst the superior discipline of the sternly-drilled battalions bequeathed him by his father wins the victory for their fugitive monarch. Silesia thus conquered, with no thanks to his own skill or courage, he next invades Bohemia so rashly as to be forced out of it without battle, by superior manoeuvring on the part of the then renowned general, Charles of Lorraine. But now begin his successes. He sees instinctively that this Austrian war, conducted upon the slopes of the vast mountain barrier of Bohemia and Prussia, requires a more varied order of tactics than that recognized by the theories of the day. He learns to break up his battalions into mobile bodies, to march them swiftly to the designated points in

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light columns, ready to wheel into line at a word; he trains their officers in the practice of occupying woods, villages, ravines. His cavalry lay aside the lumbering habits and the carbine-skirmishing practice of the dragoon, and learn to make such charges home as are needful to complete the ruin of a broken enemy. His artillery are taught to accompany and support the movements of the other arms. Not all these improvements were made during his earlier campaigns; and yet enough to give him the victories of Sohr and Hohenfriedberg, and to leave him at the close of the War of the Succession in undisputed possession of Silesia.

Designs thus formed under the practical teachings of the field were carefully matured during the ten years' peace that followed; and when the Seven Years' War broke out, Frederick as much exceeded his enemies in organization as their armies did his in numbers. His tactics were now of the boldest kind consistent with the general design of remaining on the defensive. To break through the Austrian frontier and seize the magazines carefully prepared for the invasion of his own territory—to rush swiftly from one menaced point to another where the pressure was more urgent—to manœuvre for the battle under the very beards of his slow and cautious foes—to force a decisive fight against any odds of numbers when the ground appeared favourable for the use of his favourite flank attack—such were the methods he employed, and with such he prolonged the contest until the allies of Austria grew weary of it; and, left alone, she was glad to conclude peace on equal terms. Such far-reaching strategy as marks the wars of our own century may not have been possible in the days of Frederick; there is certainly no trace of it in his history. Trusting entirely to his own superior tactical skill, and his army's discipline and courage, he was at times over eager to engage. Thus, he not only experienced some severe defeats, but spent lives out of measure with his resources, so that, but for British subsidies, his men would hardly have been replaced. But, as compared with the other generals of his time, he has truly been termed a giant among pigmies. He himself, in the letter we have before quoted, states, with all candour, how much he owed to the Austrian faults of slowness, want of concert, losses of opportunity. Yet is it certain that, if his operations as a whole are open to much criticism, and his conception of a campaign wants the breadth of view apparent in the more sweeping strategy of Napoleon, Wellington, and the Archduke Charles, he was yet wonderfully in advance of his era. He deserves the high praise of having thrown aside the trammels of a pedantic theory which sought to treat the movements of an army as a drill-sergeant does those of a squad, and which, having utterly broken down in practice, had reduced the art of war to a state of stagnation varying between winter quarters and summer 'positions.' In the shock of battle, his keenest critics admit him unsurpassed. On the whole, although Frederick was not the very first of generals, his fame rests fairly in a niche of the pedestal of military glory but little lower than that which Carlyle would assign him.

C. C. C.

LIFE IN A ROYAL HAREM.

Elihu Jan's Story; or, the Private Life of an Eastern Queen. By William Knighton, LL.D., Assistant Commissioner in Oudh, &c. (Longman & Co.)

IT is not every day that an author's domestic arrangements include the acquisition of a servant who has formerly lived with a queen, so he may be excused for making the most of the opportunity. Elihu Jan, the Abigail in question, was formerly a personal attendant of the late Queen Mother of Oudh.

Dr. Knighton lets the lady's maid tell her story in her own way; and, of course, she tells us something of herself. Her home having been broken up through a combina-

tion of bad crops and oppressive exactions, she was taken off, with a cousin, as a slave, to the Court of Lucknow. This happened at an early age, which, however, she cannot specify, though she admits, with commendable frankness, that she is "an old woman now of near thirty." For her mistress she soon conceived an affection which consistent kindness ripened into lasting respect. The Queen was then young and handsome—that is to say, she had a clear yellow complexion, large, black, lustrous eyes, with prominent features, and dark-brown hair. This was before she grew unfortunate and fat, and came to England to discuss her grievances. Her Majesty, we are told, was always of exemplary character. She always attended strictly to her devotions, and after her husband's death, not only had the Koran read to her, but used to read it to herself far into the night—for she was a great scholar and her words were wise. The account of her daily life—her prayers, her bath, her *hookah*, her little amusements, such as hearing story-tellers, &c.—is probably not very different from what would be recorded of most ladies of her station. For luxury of dress and adornment generally she had a right royal regard; but in strict privacy she confessed herself weary of such obligations, though she seems to have habitually indulged in one piece of luxury—a cooling drink in which pearls were dissolved—a refreshment which Elihu Jan tells us is said to be very wholesome and of great virtue. For the memory of her husband, Umjid Aly, she had great respect; but for her son, the still living ex-King, Wajid Aly, she had little more than toleration, and feared him, long before the fatal day arrived as destined to being destruction upon the dynasty. The succession, or rather accumulation, of fresh favourites in which he indulged, and his vicious and effeminate mode of life generally, caused her undisguised sorrow; and, as usually happens at Eastern courts, there was a great deal of intriguing caused by opposing factions. The King's people apparently thought the Queen Mother fair game as far as robbery was concerned. But there were darker doings than offences against property perpetrated in the palace. The death of Umjid Aly was believed by many to have been accelerated by poison, and the Queen's suspicions were that it had been administered by "some one who benefited most by his death." Attempts were certainly made on the Queen's life, and they were all traced to the harem of the King, her son. Once when Elihu Jan was trying her Majesty's *hookah* before taking it to the Royal lady, she drew into her mouth some white tasteless powder, a great deal more of which was found inside the tube, or "snake," as it is conventionally called. This was discovered to be poison, to which not only the attendant, but the Queen, would have fallen a victim, had not the discovery been made in time. Upon another occasion a cobra di capella was found in the Queen's bed, in a charmed or comatose state, proving that it could not have crept there of its own accord. As was usual in such cases, suspected persons were flogged until information of some kind was drawn from them, and a Darogah and a female attendant suffered severely in this manner, besides being cast into prison. Had suspicion lighted upon her, Elihu Jan is sure that, notwithstanding her mistress's kindness and affection, she would have been treated in the same way. It is all very well, she says, for the English to want witnesses and proofs, but her countrymen put their trust in God, and must needs do so, since you can get fifty witnesses in Lucknow at threepence a-day to swear to anything!

Her Majesty had the failing of some of her sex who are not queens:—

When she once expressed a desire for a thing, she always got it, no matter who opposed. If it was not granted at once, she neither ate nor drank until the request was granted, or at least a solemn promise made to grant it. But she was wise, too, and never injured her kingdom by her demands.

Elihu Jan has no doubt that women were put to death in the palace for infidelity, and she considers the arrangement quite natural and proper. They were also flogged for minor offences. That several had been walled up and buried alive she heard from the Queen herself, who, after the death of her husband, would not go about the palace at night in consequence. The latter punishments, however, are not likely to have been used in the Queen's time, as her Majesty would not have allowed it, and her influence in the State was always very great.

The patriotic exertions of the Queen for the recovery of the throne are well known; but though her counsels, had they been acted upon, would have averted the catastrophe, its consequences were beyond her control. Her death in exile was a consistent termination to the wasted influence of her life.

S. L. B.

PHILOSOPHY OR TRUTH?

Philosophy or Truth? Remarks on the First Five Lectures by the Dean of Westminster on the Jewish Church; with other Plain Words on Questions of the Day, regarding Faith, the Bible, and the Church. By the Rev. S. C. Malan, M.A., Vicar of Broadwindsor, Dorset, &c., &c. (Masters, 1865.)

IT would be scarcely possible for a man of Mr. Malan's talents and learning to write a book on the subjects in which of all others he is most at home that should fail of being both interesting and instructive; and, accordingly, the present volume is both in a very high degree. We cannot think, however, that it treats the Dean of Westminster quite fairly, nor, with all its value, can we accept its pilotage through the stirring theological questions of the day. Indeed, we must convict of the well-known fallacy called *ignoratio elenchi* the 'Plain Words on Questions of the Day' with which the book is wound up.

Mr. Malan opens his work by laying down what he calls a 'Few General Principles of Philosophy,' a set of canons for the regulation of inquiry, chiefly based on quotations from Aristotle, to neither of which—the quotations or the canons—can any objection be made, whatever may be thought of some of his applications of them.

He then proceeds to examine Dean Stanley's first five lectures in detail, and this examination constitutes by far the most valuable portion of the volume before us. Learned as he is in Oriental languages and Oriental customs beyond English example, and surpassed in these, we suspect, by few European students anywhere—having, like Dean Stanley, had personal experience of the scenes and circumstances in question, but with a still larger range, and perhaps a sharper faculty of observation—Mr. Malan's criticisms, if not always fair, are always important. That they are not always fair, will be so obvious to the candid and tolerant reader at a glance, that we should scarcely feel bound to give instances of their injustice. But we will mark one or two such for Mr. Malan's own satisfaction, and in order to show him that we are not flinging charges at random. He confronts some words of Dean Stanley's about inquiries into the sacred records being 'fearlessly pursued' with the following:—

Aristotle, who, we all agree, was a man of great sense, tells us that if one should fear nothing, 'he must be either mad or past feeling.' (P. 20.)

Now surely a very young child might point out to Mr. Malan that he is here merely playing with words. We use the epithets 'fearless' and 'fearlessly' to denote courage either of a man or a course of action, without for a moment imputing the foolhardiness or senselessness pointed at in the words of Aristotle. To say of a general that he is intrepid—i.e., *fearless*—would never be understood to imply that he is likely to expose himself and his army to all but certain destruction; to describe him as pursuing his plans *fearlessly* would never

excite in the hearer's mind an apprehension of his causing or leading a Balaclava charge. No one can for a moment suppose that Dean Stanley wishes sacred records to be approached without reverence and without the subdued frame which is produced by reverence.

Again, the same young child, on reading the following words—

Dr. Stanley excuses himself for thus dwelling principally on certain prominent objects in Jewish history by referring his readers for fuller information to the 'History of the Jews,' by Dean Milman, to whose scholarship he pays a just tribute of praise; adding, however, somewhat presumptuously [*Why?* Mr. Malan]: 'Whose name has been made dear to all who know the value of a genuine love of truth and freedom, combined with profound theological learning and high ecclesiastical station.' *Manus-manum fricat*; and the Dean of Westminster's meaning is very plain; but, unfortunately, it is a contradiction in terms. For since 'freedom' (*ἐλευθερία, ἐλευθέρωσις*) is the condition of the man free or freed from others, who can do what he likes, it is evident that when dealing with the Bible, and when thus searching the truth contained in it, we cannot go to work our own way, but we must needs keep within certain limits, and follow certain principles, &c. (Pp. 12, 13.)

would we think be capable of meeting Mr. Malan with the question, whether he is not in the habit of publicly referring to a *service* which is *perfect freedom*. Where there is 'a genuine love of truth' there will always be that of freedom also, but as certainly there will be a hatred of lawlessness.

These considerations are so obvious, that we are surprised at having to say a word upon them in dealing with a man of Mr. Malan's stamp. To come to the staple of his book: it is marked by all his rare learning and acquaintance with the East. His strictures, therefore, on his antagonists, whenever the question is one of Biblical interpretation or Oriental antiquity, are always, as we have said, important, though we could have wished them made with more courtesy, and without a constant imputation of unbelieving motive and sentiment, as unjust in the case of Dean Stanley as it is uncharitable. The book, too, is full of remarks that are both profound and beautiful; and if the style seem somewhat eccentric, it is nevertheless for the most part the purest English—English, indeed, so pure, copious, and idiomatic, as would be remarkable in any writer, but as coming from a foreigner is almost miraculous.

We must now come to the 'Plain Words on Questions of the Day, respecting Faith, the Bible, and the Church.' Here we must seek for Mr. Malan's principles. His previous criticisms must stand or fall each on its own merits; and if every one of them stand, Dean Stanley's *general method* will remain unaffected, however he may be shown to have erred in his applications of it. Neither will Mr. Malan's right to adopt a severe tone of moral censure and theological indignation be established without further argument, for his readers will soon find that it rests solely on the assumption of Holy Scripture having been immediately dictated by God. They may, therefore, reasonably expect to find him betaking himself to the proof of this theory, beset as it is with difficulties, and though still retaining its hold on the popular mind, all but universally abandoned by the learned. They will, however, be disappointed. After a long, irrelevant, but very beautiful discussion on faith, they will come, at chap. xxxix., to the heading, 'Revelation and the Bible'; and they will find that, without a pretence of argument, these two are identified, though our right thus to identify, however closely we are compelled to connect them, is precisely the question with which Mr. Malan was bound to grapple. Similarly the two terms inspiration and dictation are taken as interchangeable, though the metaphor contained in the one is anything but suggestive of the meaning of the other, and their difference of signification is the very ground taken by Mr. Malan's antagonists, from which it was his business

to dislodge them by argument, instead of overlooking it altogether.

Mr. Malan naturally comes across the famous text, 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable,' &c., and his mode of treating it is a curious instance of perverted ingenuity. His words are as follows:—

We all admit inspiration to mean 'the Holy Ghost teaching or moving men to speak or to write,' and we also admit that whole chapters of genealogies, rolls of Levites, &c., were thus 'inspired,' but we cannot say that such chapters or verses are 'profitable for doctrine, for reproof,' &c.; for anything, in short, but to fill up a list of names, which to us, however, are of no service whatever. It is clear, therefore, that St. Paul could not have such chapters or verses in view in applying the latter part of this and the following verse (v. 17) to 'all scripture is given by inspiration of God,' but he evidently said this* of the whole, and profitable for instruction, &c., only of portions thereof; using all in this case, as 'whatsoever,' or 'all that' 'is sold in the shambles, that eat,' for all that is sold there is not eatable, though it be lawful to eat it. St. Paul, then, leaves a wide margin for what is not 'profitable,' &c., in 'all scripture given by inspiration,' as he leaves out many things that cannot be eaten in 'whatsoever is sold in the shambles,' &c. (Pp. 331, 332.)

We never saw a worse analogy. In the first place, 'whatsoever,' or 'all that,' 'is sold in the shambles,' plainly means 'whatsoever,' or 'all that' is eatable. There was no question before the apostle about anything else, and therefore the precept is to be taken by him who knows the context without limitation or qualification, and furnishes no analogy on which to make such limitation or qualification anywhere else. In the second place, did the precept furnish such analogy, for aught that Mr. Malan has shown, that analogy will apply to the words 'given by inspiration of God' just as much as to profitable, &c. This is still more apparent in the original. If the rest of the terms which make up the predicate are not to be taken absolutely, then neither the first. The truth is, that the attempt to found dogma on this great practical assertion is altogether futile. It has a large and important meaning, addressing itself in common to Mr. Malan and those who widely differ from him, and beyond that meaning it may not be strained.

Mr. Malan admits that we are in possession of no 'verbally-inspired' documents. 'The only documents,' he tells us, 'that might with justice be "verbally inspired," were the autographs of the holy men who wrote as moved by the Holy Ghost.' (Pp. 332, 333.) Inaccuracies in copying, increasing 'more or less' in after copies, have brought it about that 'verbal inspiration,' as some people understand it, no longer exists. Furthermore, translations do away with it for such readers as are confined to them, seeing 'that no language can be fully and adequately rendered into another,' and the fulness of inspiration fails to reach the minds even of those who know the original tongues, seeing that 'no dead language is ever fully understood.'

It follows, therefore, that nobody has ever been in possession of an entire verbally-inspired Bible. The complete inspiration of the earlier books must have perished long before the production of the later, and now there are no original autographs whatever, and the majority of men know only one or more of the translations. Mr. Malan justly regards this as of no great importance, and no material hindrance to the practical effect of the sacred writings. We entirely concur; but if the light of heaven thus passes through a refracting medium at one stage of its progress to the mind of man, and yet gives to that mind the intended illumination, why should we fear its failing to do so, if the refracting medium be found at another and an earlier stage of that progress? and why should we shrink from proclaiming the discovery, if we have really made it, that not merely in inaccuracies of text and imperfections of translation, but

* We have substituted the word *this* for the opening words of the original here used by Mr. Malan.

in the habits of thought and in the human minds of the writers, both of Old and New Testaments, such a refraction plainly exists!

We have thus indicated our differences with Mr. Malan, to whose brilliant abilities, however, and nearly unequalled learning, we shall always be glad to do justice, and whose present work, after every deduction on the score of non-successful argument, is a most important accession to Biblical literature.

INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY.

Chemical Technology; or, Chemistry in its Applications to the Arts and Manufactures. By Thomas Richardson, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., &c., Reader in Chemistry in the University of Durham; and Henry Watts, B.A., F.C.S. Second Edition. Vol. I., Part 4. (Baillière: 219, Regent-street.)

INDUSTRIAL production is avowedly one of the most essential elements in the development and civil progress of every healthy state; for whatever may be the tastes and pursuits of the wealthier classes of a community, contentment and tranquillity can only be secured to the great mass of the population by the vigorous prosecution of a successful and remunerative industry. Of the various conditions upon which the progress of manufactures depends, capital, demand, and labour are undoubtedly of great importance; but even with ample fulfilment of these conditions, two grand elements of industrial success are still indispensable. These are *raw material*, and *scientific knowledge to convert that material into useful products*. Of the relative value of these two elements to any nation, various opinions may be held; but the necessity of both to the sound development of any branch of manufacture must be universally admitted. It would not be difficult to show, however, that the scientific element possesses by far the highest importance; and further, that this importance is becoming relatively greater year by year.

The first incentive to industrial energy is undoubtedly the presence of raw material, and the technological character of a nation is in the first instance generally determined by the description of raw material with which nature has endowed it. It was thus formerly easy for a country to preserve a monopoly of its chief articles of manufacture, even when not protected from competitors by legislative enactments; but a national commercial prosperity reposing upon this manufacturing condition could only remain secure so long as the second or scientific element remained in abeyance, for the gradual development of scientific intelligence rapidly diminishes the importance of the possession of prominent raw material, either by the discovery of other forms of matter capable of producing the same products and effects, or by devising improved and less costly methods of transport, by which the importation of the raw material is facilitated. Take, for instance, sulphur, one of the principal raw materials upon which nearly all chemical manufactures depend. In this country we formerly derived our supplies of the volcanic product from Sicily, and our manufacturers were seriously crippled when the late King of Naples imposed restrictions upon its export, which raised the price from 5*l.* to 14*l.* per ton. Necessity became, however, as usual, the mother of invention, and within a year after the adoption of the restrictive measure, no less than fifteen patents were taken out, for the employment of indigenous minerals in the place of Sicilian sulphur. In short, the effect of the so-called sulphur monopoly was such, that, at the present time, for every ton of Sicilian sulphur used in this country, ten tons are extracted from iron pyrites or sulphuret of iron.

In Great Britain, we have been so singularly favoured in regard to two of the most important raw materials—coal and iron—and we have hitherto found it so easy successfully to compete with nations less favoured in this respect, that the healthy stimulus to intellectual training in the chemical arts has not been very strong. Our manufac-

turers have by no means kept pace with the progress of science. Accustomed only to empiricism, and dependent principally upon tradition for their information, they too often arrived at the conclusion that progress and improvement could only result from experience, and that theoretical and abstract science were utterly useless, or worse than useless, in the prosecution of manufactures. They ignored the highest functions of the intellect, and wanted to confine it to those objects only which gave palpable promise of immediate useful applications. Completely ignorant of the powers of nature, they had no living faith in the wonderful resources which her abstract truths always open up to the sincere searcher after knowledge, but which are for ever hid from the eyes of the mere utilitarian.

This condition of things, however, is now passing away, and we have only to look at the rapid development of such recent processes of chemical technology as those by which paraffin and coal-tar dyes are produced, to convince ourselves that scientific attainments of a very high order are now enlisted in the prosecution of chemical manufactures. It is also daily becoming more apparent, that no combination of favourable circumstances can long secure success, without the co-operation of scientific knowledge, attained and kept up by diligent study of chemical and physical laws. On this ground we cordially welcome the work of Messrs. Richardson and Watts, which is being produced under auspices of no ordinary character; one of its authors having spent a life of technical activity amongst the vast chemical factories of the Newcastle district, whilst his colleague possesses a well-earned reputation for literary attainments of a very high order, coupled with a profound knowledge of the abstract and theoretical branches of chemical science. It was natural that chemists should expect great results from the combined labours of two writers possessing such qualifications, and these expectations have not been disappointed. The book now before us, although described only as the fourth part of the first volume, constitutes in itself a goodly volume of more than 600 pages, and contains carefully-written, and in many cases very valuable descriptions of the manufacture of aluminium, sodium, soda, phosphorus, lucifer matches, borax, artificial mineral waters, gunpowder, gun-cotton, fireworks, &c., copiously illustrated.

The chapter on the twin manufactures of aluminium and sodium includes the continuous preparation of sodium in cylinders, the reduction of aluminium from its chloride and from the Greenland mineral cryolite by sodium, and by the electric current.

The alloys of aluminium have perhaps scarcely yet received sufficient attention. One of them is, however, already favourably known as aluminium bronze; it contains 10 per cent. of aluminium, and 90 per cent. of copper, and promises to become of great value for the metallic parts of geodetical and astronomical instruments; its remarkable strength and tenacity conducing to great economy in weight as compared with brass. This alloy is of the colour of gold, takes a high polish, is extremely hard, and possesses a tenacity nearly equal to that of the best steel; it is also very malleable. Altogether we have a right to anticipate a very useful future for this new metal.

Under the head of phosphorus, a great body of most valuable information is given on the manufacture, purification, and uses of this singular element. The authors state that the manufacture in this country has enormously increased during the past ten years, the annual make being now no less than 125,000lbs., whilst the total annual production of Europe is estimated at 400,000lbs. Of this, Germany uses at least one-half. With the exception of a comparatively small amount, which is devoted to poisoning rats and black beetles, the whole of this vast quantity of phosphorus is employed in the manufacture of lucifer matches. The

great inflammability of this element renders the workmen who handle it liable to the most dreadful accidents; and even should they be fortunate enough to escape the fiery dangers of the phosphorus, the inhalation of its vapour frequently subjects them to a frightful disease, which exhibits itself in the decay of the bones of the jaws, accompanied with malignant ulceration; often baffling all attempts to arrest its progress, unless the patient be mutilated in a horrible manner, by the excision of the diseased bone. Fortunately, however, phosphorus is susceptible of a remarkable transformation, which renders it harmless in both these respects, but preserves its power of ignition under certain conditions, which can scarcely occur accidentally. This curious transformation was discovered by Professor Schrötter as early as the year 1848; but so slowly do the discoveries of abstract science become incorporated into technology, that we are only now beginning to use the facts which the Austrian professor placed in our hands seventeen years ago.

The manufacture and use of gunpowder are most compendiously treated, and Baron Lenk's improved mode of making gun-cotton, as now successfully practised in Messrs. Prentice and Co's. gun-cotton factory at Stowmarket, is clearly and fully described, together with the present state of knowledge regarding the application of "this explosive of the future" to gunnery and blasting.

The last sixty pages of the present part are devoted to fireworks, the manufacture of which, judging from the authors' description, does not seem to have changed much since our own school days. We had, however, no idea that undemonstrative Britons spend so much money upon fireworks.

In ordinary years the value of the fireworks purchased by and for the public amounts to from 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.*, which rises to 25,000*l.* in a coronation year.

When national rejoicings celebrate the termination of a war, as in the case of the Russian war, the amount was estimated at 26,000*l.*, which was far exceeded on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, when the value was upwards of 30,000*l.*

That a book of such wide scope and so much detail should be entirely free from errors and omissions could scarcely be expected, but the only one of importance which we have discovered occurs under the head of artificial stone, where no less than four processes patented by Mr. Ransome for the manufacture of this important material are described, whilst his last invention, which was patented four years ago, and is the only really valuable one, does not receive any mention at all. The ornamental portions of the Underground Railway stations are constructed of this stone, the durability of which may thus be ascertained from year to year by those interested in such matters. Strangely enough, the authors have inserted the results of experiments recently made on this stone at Woolwich Dockyard, but under the head of artificial stone made with water glass and sand, according to the process of 1853, whereas the trials in question were made with stone prepared by Mr. Ransome's process of 1861, which consists in moistening sand with strong solution of silicate of soda, pressing it into moulds, and then immersing the blocks in strong solution of chloride of calcium. In this way a stone of remarkable hardness is produced in two or three hours, without any application of heat, and consequently with the retention of the sharpness of the pattern of the mould in which the moist sand was first pressed. This is, in short, an exact imitation of the process by which sandstones are formed in nature, only the cementing material in the artificial stone (silicate of lime) is harder and more capable of resisting atmospheric influences, than the carbonate of lime employed by nature for the same purpose. It was this stone which, exposed to a steady transverse strain in the dockyard experiments, was found considerably to surpass in strength the Darley Dale, Grimshill, Portland, and Bath stones.

Having pointed out this error, it is but just to the authors to say that their book is characterized by great care in the selection of data, and by accuracy in the description of processes. We cordially recommend it to all who are interested in the chemical arts and manufactures, and we have no hesitation in predicting that, when completed, it will form a standard book of reference which will scarcely have a rival in any language.

A GREAT POTTER.

The Life of Josiah Wedgwood. By Eliza Meteyard. In Two Volumes. Vol. I. (Hurst & Blackett.)

THE publishers of this work have produced one of the handsomest volumes we have ever met with. They have done their part so well, that the work is certain to be eagerly sought after on account of its illustrations and its beauty. If the authoress had executed her task with equal success, the book would have been a unique one. She has taken great pains, but has displayed little judgment. A worse preface than that which is affixed to this volume has seldom been written. It is full of self-assertion, and utterly destitute of modesty. She writes, "I have from the beginning viewed my task in a wide and comprehensive spirit." She tells us, "There is no reasonable doubt that even Flaxman's masterpieces were amenable to his (Wedgwood's) judgment, and occasionally perfected in detail by his hand." Her hero did wonders, but to assert that he perfected Flaxman's designs is to indulge in a sort of hero-worship, which is utterly nauseous. After this we are prepared for the remark, "In making the tile-work of the Middle Ages popularly known, I wish my countrymen to see that taste is latent in our race, as much as manipulative skill is visible and present with us." This sentence of itself indicates how little Miss Meteyard knows of the duties of a biographer. What she undertakes to tell us is the story of Wedgwood's life. That life ought not to be made the vehicle of proving or of endeavouring to prove "that taste is latent in our race."

The preface occupies twenty-four pages. We have to peruse two hundred and two additional pages before we read of the birth of Wedgwood. The first five chapters are neither worthless nor uninteresting; but they are out of place. As portions of a treatise on the rise of the art of pottery, we should read them with pleasure. But there can be no greater mistake than to imitate those old monks who always prefaced their writings with an account of the creation of the world. Even less pardonable than this mistake, is that of saying nothing in many high-sounding sentences. Mr. Thornbury, in his biography of Turner, and Mr. Dixon, in his life of Bacon, have carried this art to perfection: let them remain undisputed masters of the field. Imitations ought never to be commended; but clumsy imitations ought always to be denounced. Miss Meteyard has done her work very unskillfully. One passage will suffice as a sample. After stating that Wedgwood was born "on a summer's day early in July, 1730," and having been indulging in speculations as to when he was baptized and why he was named Josiah, this paragraph occurs:—

The birth of another child, in a household where there were already so many, could have excited no unusual degree of interest; though by that kindly law of Providence which rules in all such cases, *we may be sure* it was no unwelcome stranger, but dropped at once into its place, and took its share of parental care and tenderness, as though waited for, and necessary to complete the integrity of the domestic scene. Neither did the curate and gossips, as they gathered round the font, and hurried over their accustomed duty, imagine for one moment, *we may be quite sure*, how potential in the industrial history of their country was to be the name thus conferred; how associated with beauty of constructive form, ideal grace, and truth in its utilitarian as in its artistic sense; or that men the greatest in their day would be proud to associate it with theirs, in many of the civil ameliorations and

industrial advances of the eighteenth century. In this way, and thus mutely and obscurely, does all true service make its beginning in this world of duty, sacrifice, and endeavour.

If the forgoing passage had been written by a man, we should have styled it twaddle; but proceeding as it does from a woman's pen we instance it as a specimen of feminine gossip. Unfortunately it is not the only one of its kind; it is the only one, however, which we shall notice. The bad taste of the passage is surpassed by its absurdity. Does Miss Meteyard suppose that a curate and gossips ever think of anything else when an infant is being baptized than whether it will "be good" and not scream? What a pity some critical friend did not advise her to strike her pen through every passage beginning with "we may be quite sure" or "we can well imagine" or "we may be quite certain!" The result would have been the cancelling of several pages. Those which were left, on the other hand, would have been heightened in value.

The chief interest of this biography consists in the number of Wedgworth's letters to which the authoress has had access. The facts of his life have been recorded before, but not till now could we view the many-sided character of the man. The flexibility of his mind is as remarkable as the firmness of his character. Whatever he took in hand he carried to a successful issue. Whether he were in quest of a new glaze, or endeavouring to persuade a Committee of the House of the merits of the Trent and Mersey Canal scheme, he was equally fertile in expedients and equally assiduous in application. Between him and George Stephenson there are many points of resemblance.

He had the good fortune to marry a congenial partner for life. She is thus characterized by Miss Meteyard: "She wrote and spelt well; she had a keen and accurate judgment, which, under cultivation, rose in its degree; and there is that in her countenance, as preserved to us in the cameos, which indicates a great natural sense of beauty and form. The long thread of artistic cultivation, through the line of her forefathers, had left its traces here, and with very pregnant results." Neither the words chosen nor the metaphors employed in the foregoing sentences commend themselves to our minds. It is puzzling to know how a countenance can indicate "a great natural sense of beauty and form." We can understand that a countenance may be beautiful, but we never saw one preserved in a cameo which indicated the possession of a sense of beauty. This is another illustration of the carelessness with which Miss Meteyard has executed her task.

Yet the absence of good taste in the authoress does little to impair the interest we take in her hero. His is another name added to those whose services we delight to honour. We welcome this biography of him, notwithstanding its blemishes. The authoress has it in her power to make the letterpress of the next volume worthy of the illustrations. Let her only strike her pen through every passage which she thinks beautiful, let her give more prominence to facts and less space to her imaginings, and she will have earned our thanks as entirely as her publishers have done.

THE SHILLING MAGAZINE.

The announcement of a new magazine is so common an occurrence, as to excite little curiosity. But the *Shilling Magazine* is an exception to that rule. We were curious to see the magazine which was to supersede all the others. The printer was charged with taking strange and unheard-of liberties with the prospectus wherein the advent of the *Shilling Magazine* was announced. He is said to have substituted sentences which were at once ungrammatical and meaningless for others which, we are asked to believe, were correctly and modestly written. Nay, more, he printed a list of contributors, containing names of prominent writers who had refused to contribute to the magazine. The printer is a convenient scape-goat. The contents

of the new magazine are varied, without being striking. On the whole, the *Shilling Magazine* is hardly so solid as the *Cornhill*, so profound as *Macmillan*, or so lively as *Temple Bar*. If it be no better than any existing magazine, neither is it much inferior. Had we not read the prospectus of its conductors, we might have expected less, and, not comparing the performance with the boastful promise, we might have pronounced the *Shilling Magazine* to be nearly on a par with the best of its predecessors.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood's most attractive papers are the "Life of Sterne," and the Essays of Cornelius O'Dowd. The former is based on Mr. Fitzgerald's biography, but contains independent opinions concerning Sterne's character. An attempt is made to exculpate Sterne from some of Thackeray's charges. Cornelius O'Dowd attacks the system of cross-examination, without, however, showing any practical acquaintance with the real uses and effects of the system. He gives us a sensible essay on Thrift, and an amusing as well as sensible one on getting into Parliament. *Fraser* is very unequal this month. The first paper is the most striking one in the number. It is entitled "Mayflowerings," and consists, first, of an account of life in New England on Thanksgiving-day, and sketches of American life at other seasons. Mr. W. M. Rossetti enlarges on the artistic merits of Mr. Madox Brown. The worst paper is that on a "French Criticism on Spinoza." We object less to the argument than to the diction. Here is an example: "There is a rather small mortal called Maine de Biran, whom the French ludicrously overrate." Now, a writer may differ from a man's philosophy, without expressing dissent in this vulgar way. In *The Cornhill*, the author of a paper on "Machinery and the Passions" arrives at the conclusion that, "owing to mechanical forces operating with cumulating force in modern society, the passions are destined to weaken and fade, and life to become more and more an intellectual process." "The Economics of Country Life" is a first-rate article on the costs and profits of farming. Equally noteworthy is the first of a series of papers on "The English Drama." From the works of the Elizabethan dramatists many happy passages are extracted. The writers are very justly characterized. Nearly every paper in *Macmillan* is a good one. The Rev. F. D. Maurice, in a letter to the editor, ably contests the view which has been taken by Mr. Dicey of the "History of Caesar." Lord Hobart rightly argues that banking should be as free as any other pursuit. The editor gives a very pleasing account of Dr. Samuel Brown, Hugh Miller, and De Quincey; and Professor Goldwin Smith a genial estimate of Mr. Cobden. The services which Mr. J. S. Mill has rendered to politics with his pen are clearly set forth in the last article.

In this number of *Temple Bar*, Mr. Sala discourses on "Broadway, New York." Minute as Mr. Sala's descriptions are, yet they serve to prove the impossibility of painting scenes in words. His pictures chiefly interest those who have walked through the streets he depicts. There is much valuable information in the article entitled "The Benevolent Public." Every one has seen advertisements from clergymen calling for penny contributions to build or endow a church. A penny is a trifling gift, but it may be improperly bestowed. The writer in *Temple Bar* more than insinuates that the advertising parsons are unworthy recipients of contributions. The article ought to be perused, and the subject carefully investigated. The *St. James's* contains a very readable biography of Churchill. A paper on "Street Songs and their Singers" is filled with much carefully-collected matter. There is one statement, however, which we cannot accept as correct. It is that Lord Macaulay was a writer of street songs, and that he published them in the *Etonian*. Macaulay did write ballads on the civil war, which were inserted in *Knight's Quarterly Magazine*. When this writer calls them "street songs," we infer that he has never read them. "Shooting of the Past and Present Day" is from the pen of one who is both a good shot and a teller of good stories. The chief attraction of *London Society* is its illustrations. This month's number contains fewer striking illustrations than usual.

Among recent religious serials, the *Englishman's Magazine* is one of the most conspicuous. The articles would be too solid for the general public, yet they seem well suited for the class of readers to which this magazine appeals. In a paper on the "Talmudic Legends" occurs the following, among many other curious anecdotes:

The explanation in the Talmud why Adam's rib was selected rather than any other part of his body wherewith to form Eve, "runs as follows: The head? she would have become too conceited. The eye? too roving. The ear? too inquisitive. The mouth? too loquacious. The heart? too passionate. The hands? too grasping. The feet? too gadding. She was created from a hidden and modest part of man, and step by step as each member was created, a voice cried, 'Be modest, be modest.' And for all that, woman has a little of every fault which we have mentioned." *The Watch Tower*, being edited by the Rev. Mr. Molyneux, is sure to find readers among Low Churchmen. In this number particular religious opinions are not made too conspicuous, while the articles of general interest are numerous and well written. The first paper is in a style resembling that of the popular papers by a "Commonplace Country Parson." It contains some very happy quotations. The second is a sermon of which flowers form the texts. A paper on the "Holy Land" characterizes Mr. Dixon's book of travels as "full of the brightest word-pictures, broad speculation, and deep philosophy." If the statements in the paper are well founded, England ought to be proud of having given birth to such a scholar as Mr. Dixon. The best paper in the number is by Mr. Tupper. It is entitled "Rhyme and Rhythm." *The Churchman's Family Magazine* contains an interesting account of the career of the Bishop of Natal, and a very clever notice of recent publications, in the form of a conversation between members of "Our Clerical Club." In *The Month* there is a biographical sketch of the late Hippolyte Flandrin, which is worthy of perusal. The first monthly part of *The Day of Rest* has appeared. This is one of the cheapest of recent publications, and it is not only low in price, but excellent in quality. *The Victoria Magazine* contains an interesting account of a Turkish wedding in the paper on "Life at Rhodes."

All the foregoing magazines, the *Englishman* and *Churchman* only excepted, contain instalments of novels. In *Temple Bar* portions of no less than three novels appear every month. We reserve notices of these several works of fiction till they shall come before us in a complete form. To review the fragments of a novel is certainly a mistake. To publish a novel in monthly parts may be a mistake also.

One paper in the *Eclectic* mars the effect of the others. Cornelius O'Dowd once wrote some rather severe things against the parties of excursionists that flocked to the continent under the guidance of Mr. Cook. This has been represented as an insult. The present writer follows on the same side in a very ill-advised manner, for he writes as if he were very angry. A joke can only be answered by a joke. Those who laugh longest are sure to prevail. It does not disprove the ludicrous statement of Cornelius O'Dowd to bespatter him with hard names. Of the *British Army and Navy Review*, the *Sixpenny Magazine*, the *Anti-teapot Review*, the *Boy's Own Magazine*, and the *Boy's Monthly*, it need only be said that they ought to find favour in the eyes of those for whom they are designed.

We must here notice the May part of Messrs. Longman's new edition of *Brand's Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art*, which will claim our monthly attention during the present year. This is an altogether admirable production, and its clearness of type is equalled only by the clearness of its definitions. It will form, when complete, much more than a mere dictionary—it will be a handy encyclopedia of the branches of knowledge dwelt upon. The chapters *de longe haleine* in the present part are indeed models of those which we should, but do in fact rarely, find in works of greater pretensions—the articles on "Botany," "Bridge," "Calendars," "Canal," "Chemistry," to wit. The two parts already published contain 480 pages, and bring us down to "Cofferdam." Taking these as an earnest of the manner in which the work will be performed, and relying on the published list of contributors, we may safely venture to predict that this new edition of this well-known work will be a necessity in every library.

We have also received the *Intellectual Observer*, by far the most important article in which is one by Dr. Carpenter, on the structure and position of that remarkable fossil, the *Eozoon Canadense*. This paper is illustrated by two good plates. But perhaps appealing to a greater number of readers is an article on "Dervishes and Hadji's," by that pseudo dervish, Mr. Vámbéry. Mr. Houghton and Rev. T. Webb contribute papers on those

branches of science to which they are respectively devoted.

The *Geological Magazine* for May contains the second part of a paper by Mr. Ruskin, on the denudation of the Alps, which will be read with interest by many who are not geologists. Mr. Godwin Austen contributes a paper on the classification of the Cretaceous Beds. Mr. G. Maw gives an account of some curious "pockets" which are found in the mountain-limestone near Llandudno, in the examination of which he discovered an extensive deposit of chert mixed with sandy marl. This number of the magazine is extremely good and contains a variety of interesting geological matter.

We have received the following, which are all good of their kind. The *Alexandra Magazine*, *Musical Monthly*, *Good Words*, *Sunday Magazine*, *Christian Treasury*, *Mother's Treasury*, *Sunday Teacher's Treasury*, *Missing Link Magazine*, *The Quiver*. Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have issued the monthly parts of the following illustrated publications. All these publications are noteworthy for the excellence of the paper, typography, and illustrations, and for the very low price at which they are offered to the public: *The Bible*, *Family Paper*, *Don Quixote*, *Shakespeare*, *Book of Martyrs*, *Bible Dictionary*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Natural History*.

The Wedgwoods, by Llewellynn Jewitt. (Virtue Brothers & Co.)—Two biographies of Wedgwood have been published almost simultaneously. We have noticed at length the one which we received first. Both are dedicated to Mr. Gladstone. The one by Miss Meteyard "is by permission gratefully inscribed" to him; that by Mr. Jewitt "is, by express permission, dedicated." It is quite natural that both writers should wish to have the approval of one of the greatest authorities on matters connected with pottery-ware in England. Never before did we have a Chancellor of the Exchequer who was nearly as learned in china as in finance. Mr. Jewitt has not had the advantage of seeing the manuscripts to which Miss Meteyard had access. We cannot discriminate between these works. Each is valuable; the perusal of both is necessary in order to understand all that Wedgwood accomplished, and the rise and progress of the early Staffordshire Potteries.

The New Testament Illustrated. Edited by Edward Churton, M.A., Archdeacon of Cleveland and Prebendary of York, and William Basil Jones, M.A., Prebendary of York and St. David's. Two vols. (John Murray.)—This edition of the New Testament ought not to be reviewed, but to be praised. The well-known character of the editors is a sufficient warrant for the value of the notes, and as to the illustrations, they could hardly be surpassed. They are chiefly from sketches made on the spot by the accomplished scholar and artist, Rev. S. C. Malan, and from photographs by Mr. James Graham. Mr. Murray deserves the thanks of every Biblical student for having published a work which is so serviceable in enabling the reader to understand the appearance of the localities and incidents described in the text.

Critical Essays of a Country Parson. (Longmans.)—The country parson has added another work to the number of those which judicious readers would do well to avoid. These essays first appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*. Several of them consist, for the most part, of extracts from the books reviewed. The extracts are sometimes diversified by extravagant eulogy.

The Second Empire, by Sir C. F. Lascelles Wrexall, Bart. Two vols. (John Maxwell & Co.)—This literary baronet is an even more prolific writer than the "County Parson." He publishes a volume nearly every week. Many of these volumes consist of reprints of articles contributed to magazines. The papers in the present work refer to French topics, and have evidently seen the light already, and are not sufficiently remarkable to deserve being reprinted.

East and West: Our Dealings with our Neighbours. Essays by Different Hands. Edited by the Hon. Henry Stanley. (Hatchard & Co.)—These essays are well worthy of careful perusal. Each writer treats his subject with great care and skill. The maxim chiefly enforced is that of treating Orientals, even though they have the misfortune to be also barbarians, with the same consideration and in accordance with the same rules which we should do were they natives of Europe. The lesson is one which we require to

learn. No teachers could inculcate it more effectively than the contributors to this volume.

Essays of a Recluse. By W. B. Clulow. (Longmans.)—From the very brief preface we learn that these essays are, in the main, extracts from published compositions. Whether now published for the second or first time, they are welcome. But the volume is not adapted for continuous reading. The contents are too disjointed to give unalloyed pleasure. We may close this brief notice with a sentence by the author, and one of which, he says, that "the uninitiated will perhaps take for paradox: There are many writers, but few authors."

The Last Illness of Cardinal Wiseman. By John Morris, Canon Penitentiary of Westminster. (Burns, Lambert, & Oates.)—This is a very painful little book. In it are described, with a minuteness which is almost revolting, all the operations undergone by the late Cardinal. A more elaborate account of the last hours of a distinguished man has never been written, if we except that containing the last hours of Kant.

Man Considered, Socially and Morally. By George Sparkes. (Longmans.)—In this unpretending little volume "the leading ideas and principles are chiefly those of Aristotle, Locke, Butler, Paley, Coombe, Whately, and J. S. Mill." The author furnishes us rather with the subjects about which he thought, than the results of deep thinking. The perusal of it may be of service in exciting thought in others.

An Editor off the Line; or, Wayside Musings and Reminiscences. By Edward Miall. (Arthur Miall.)—In his preface Mr. Miall says: "The nervous hesitation with which this little volume is sent forth is that of a man who, having been long accustomed to do one thing in the presence of the public, is induced, no matter by what reason, to do another thing, which, far less formidable in itself, is nevertheless strange to him." This is an illustration of the fact that those who know the public best fear it most. Mr. Miall has, however, no reason to be apprehensive. The subjects of this volume may be strange to him, yet, perhaps on that very account, they are treated with a freshness which is charming.

New Religious Thoughts. By Douglas Campbell. Second Edition, revised. (Williams & Norgate.)—A volume on a subject so abstruse as that treated of in this one, which reaches a second edition, is one which certainly does not stand in need of investigation by a reviewer. It will suffice, then, to record the fact of its publication, and to state its character as set forth in a sentence in a preface to the first edition: "Not to destroy the Church, but to place her and her creed where every other good and useful institution and truth rests—namely, on the solid ground of the World's Divine Order, as disclosed to reason and experience—is the undoubted tendency of those 'Essays and Reviews'; and with all submission, such also is our claim in the following work."

Jomini's Grand Military Operations. Trübner & Co.—With the exception of Napoleon, perhaps no general ever inaugurated such extensive reforms in the military art as did Frederick the Great. Not only had he intuitive genius for war, but also the capacity of profiting by experience. What was, however, a more conspicuous element in his character than either, was his astonishing energy and fortitude under the most terrible reverses. His enemies were never so likely to receive a crushing blow as immediately after having inflicted on him a complete defeat.

The grand principles of strategy and tactics never change, though the mode of applying them may vary. Jomini says: "While comparing the causes of the victories of ancient and modern times, we are greatly surprised to discover that the battles of Wagram, Pharsalia, and Cannæ were gained from the same original cause." Since the death of Marlborough and Eugene these principles would appear to have been little applied, still less understood, till Frederick appeared, and by the force of his genius again raised war to the rank of a science. To read the campaigns of a Frederick, described and interpreted by a Jomini, cannot but be of the greatest possible advantage to every soldier. Napoleon himself included these campaigns, the attentive perusal of which were the sole means of becoming a great captain. Of course, the virtue here ascribed to mere theory is somewhat exaggerated, for no man ever became a great general by book know-

ledge alone. At the same time, few have attained celebrity without it. Marlborough is certainly a striking exception; but with him natural genius of transcendent quality supplied the place of education. Yet he nevertheless, in all his campaigns, conformed strictly to those principles which ordinary men learn, but which came to him by intuition. Those officers who perceive in themselves a resemblance to Marlborough may perhaps dispense with study, but to all others it is essential.

It was rather the fashion in England, a few years ago, to despise the studious officer, and to contrast with him what was called the practical man—that is to say, the man who performed his duties, as it were, by rule of thumb, and who having, like Frederick the Great's mule, served through a dozen campaigns, was supposed to be an accomplished soldier. That fallacy is now happily exploded, though its fragments still somewhat cover the ground. It is recognized that a man may be better, and cannot be worse, from studying his profession; that if theory without practice be bad, practice without certain broad principles of conduct is not much better. This is an obvious truism, yet it is a truism which for many years knocked vainly for admittance at the door of the national mind. The worse part of the matter was that when, about the time of the Crimean War, the army awoke from its mental lethargy to a desire of learning, the means within their reach were scanty. There was scarcely a book in English on the art of war. This defect is being daily remedied; still the bulk of military literature is written in French or German. It is assumed that every educated Englishman is acquainted with French. In practice that acquaintance is frequently very slight—at all events, with many the trouble of reading a book in French is often just the trifle which turns the balance of resolution, and deters them from the undertaking. To Colonel Holaberd, therefore, who has snatched a few hours of leisure to devote them to the translation of Jomini's "Grand Military Operations," military men, both here and in America, owe a debt of gratitude. The task has been well performed, and the original ideas lose little force or exactitude in their new garb.

We have received from Messrs. Houlston & Wright the fourth volume of *The Theological Works of the Rev. John Howard Hinton, M.A.*, treating of "Practical Divinity." The volume opens with "Elements on Moral Philosophy," reprinted from the Oxford Encyclopædia, followed by a couple of sermons, the one on "Completeness of Ministerial Qualification," and the other on "The Means of Religious Revival." The rest of the volume is devoted to a consideration of "Individual Efforts for the Conversion of Sinners." From Mr. William P. Nimmo we have *The Analytical Bible Class Book*, by George Taylor, F.E.I.S., admirably suited for Sunday-school use; from Messrs. J. and C. Morley, *Honora's Sunday Book*, being Conversations on Our Lord's Miracles, by Mrs. Richard Valentine, author of "Cottage Readings," an excellent little volume for home instruction; and from Mr. John Masters *The Victory of the Spirit: a Course of Short Sermons by Way of Commentary on the Eighth Chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*, by John M. Ashley, B.C.L. These short sermons express simply but clearly and forcibly the teaching of the leading fathers of the Church upon that portion of Holy Scripture of which they treat.

David Garrick: a Love Story. By T. W. Robertson. (S. O. Beeton. Pp. 258).—This novelette is simply an expansion of the play called "David Garrick," in which Mr. Sothorn has been so very successful. Both play and story are the work of one hand. Mr. Robertson, in his narrative, commits sundry anachronisms; but his style is so sparkling, his situations so amusing, and sometimes so very tender, that we forgive his little slips.

From Sunday to Sunday. By Richard Gee, M.A. (Longman & Co. Pp. 256.) *The Model Parish*. By F. R. Wynne, B.A. (S. W. Partridge. Pp. 257.)—To the ordinary secular mind the clergyman is one of those who neither toil nor spin; one of those whose lines have been cast in pleasant places, and whose main duty consists in occupying those places with becoming ecclesiastical decorum. It appears that in these latter days the clerical vocation has quite a different signification to what it had only a quarter of a century ago; and that it really means now a life of hard work. This notion is more or less enforced by the authors of the above-

named books. However lightly others may look upon pastoral work, it is quite evident that Mr. Gee and Mr. Wynne regard it in the gravest possible way, "approving themselves as the ministers of God."

Lowland Legends: Chiefly Relating to the Buchan District. Edited by H. G. Reid. (W. P. Nimmo. Pp. 56.)—With the exception of the late William Thom's "Maiden of Drumdurno," there is little literary merit about these "Lowland Legends;" and yet the writer, in "The Courtship and Marriage of the Earl of Buchan," "The Fate of Forvie," and "James Bruce, the Shank-weaver of Old Deer," manages to tell his story glibly, and to take his reader along with him. But he ought to have adhered as closely as he could to the legend, pure and simple, as it came down to him, leaving the task of turning it to literary and artistic uses to those more experienced and gifted. However, he has struck upon a happy vein; and if he had only industry enough, he might do for the East of Scotland what Campbell of Islay has done so successfully for the West.

Araki the Daimio. A Japanese Story of the Olden Time. By Mona B. Bickerstaff. (Jackson, Walford, & Hodder. Pp. 175.)—"The olden time" of this story refers to that period in the sixteenth century when the Church of Rome held sway in the "land of the rising sun." The lovely Ama, the heroine of the story, is, as a matter of course, a Christian; and the author makes the fact of her refusing her hand to a rich and powerful Daimio of the old ways of thinking the occasion of that terrific persecution which ended in the expulsion of the Portuguese and the closing of the Japanese ports to all strangers. The story is pleasantly told.

The History of a Bit of Bread; being Letters to a Child on the Life of Man and Animals. Part II. Animals. By Jean Macé. Translated by Mrs. Alfred Gatty. (Saunders & Otley.)—We can cordially recommend this little book, not only on account of the information it so pleasantly conveys, but on account of the admirable manner in which the translation has been done. Mrs. Gatty is evidently aware that the subject matter is worthy of her pen, and the natural-history-loving little folks should be glad that all Jean Macé has to say concerning the classification of birds, beasts, and fishes, and so many of their habits, and the nourishment of plants, has been translated for their benefit. The title misleads somewhat, for the book indeed is in a manner an introduction to an important branch of zoology. It should be widely read, for it is just the book to instil a love of these matters into young minds.

Homes without Hands. Part XVII. (Longmans.)—We have now fairly got to birds' nests, and the part is well timed, now that our woods are alive with song, and the "aerial builders" are at work. Mr. Wood lags not in his task, and still shows himself to have been for long a close observer of nature. The full-page plate of the "Dormouse and Nest" is equal to many of the former ones. More one need not say in its praise.

Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps. By Dr. J. E. Gray. (Marlborough & Co., Ave Maria-lane.)—The fact that this little work has reached its third edition is a sufficient testimony of its value to stamp-collectors. The introduction is extremely well done, and contains much information. Dr. Gray has brought his classificatory powers to bear upon this apparently trivial subject with much success, and the book, long after the present fashion of stamp-collecting has gone out, will still be valuable for reference purposes, and perhaps be more really useful than at present.

Benedeker's Hand-book to Paris. Williams and Norgate.—This is an excellent book for nine out of every ten visitors to Paris. It tells all that they want, and not more than they want. It has the advantage, possessed by many foreign volumes, of being printed on light paper, so that although it contains much letter-press, it forms a volume that will really go easily into the pocket. The maps are very ingeniously managed. A clue map, pasted inside the cover, is divided into three tinted bands—pink, white, and blue; a separate map on a large scale corresponds to each of these bands. It pulls out, but does not fold over. A map of this sort may be readily and decorously consulted in the open air; and relieves the tourist from struggling with some square feet of paper, folded both lengthways and breadthways, at the windy corners of streets, uncertain

whither to turn. Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe, and Rouen have all their maps and short remarks. The routes to London, the Rhine, and Switzerland are all described. There are also numerous plans, as of Père la Chaise, Versailles, and the Jardin des Plantes.

Bradshaw's Illustrated Handbook to Spain and Portugal; with Maps, Town Plans, and Steel Illustrations, by Dr. Charnock. London: J. Adams; Manchester: Bradshaw and Blacklock.—This volume has all the merits and all the deficiencies of the other "Bradshaw's Guides." That is to say, the railway and road maps are excellently clear, and there is a great deal of information packed in a small space. On the other hand, the omissions are so considerable, that a tourist would hardly like not to have another guide-book within his reach, however useful and compendious he may find his "Bradshaw" to be.

Geology as a Branch of General Education is the title of an address delivered by Mr. Page, F.R.S.E., &c., which printed now lies before us. This address is a worthy addition to the "Lectures on Education" delivered at the Royal Institution. In those lectures geology was omitted from the list of important studies, each one of which claimed its place as a necessary branch of education. Mr. Page is well known as a geologist; and, as the author of several works on the subject, he is, therefore, eminently qualified to urge the importance of introducing this study into our schools and universities, where we hope, before long, to see it occupying its right place. Thoroughly do we agree with Mr. Page when he says: "There is no greater mistake in modern school tuition, and none so general, as the neglect of natural sciences; and yet there are few departments of knowledge to which boys are more readily and earnestly attracted. The majority are naturally observers and collectors, and it only requires encouragement and direction to make them reasoners and reflectors." We welcome this pamphlet as tending towards the end we desire—the opening the eyes of intelligent people to see the real importance of the study of the natural sciences.

Aubrey Court. By Frank Lyffield. (Saunders, Otley, & Co.)—"Aubrey Court" is by no means a rival to the productions of Walter Scott, Bulwer, Thackeray, or Dickens; but, nevertheless, it is a pretty good novel. Overwhelmed as we are at present by a flood of works of fiction, in which a knot of spasmodic improbabilities take the place of a plot, it is pleasant to meet with a book like this, which unpretentiously satisfies all the fair demands of imagination without pandering to morbid and blasé tastes. It has another merit, by no means common in these days of dashed-off sensational literature—it is written in good English. The chief object of a novelist should be the amusement of his readers; and "Aubrey Court" is not only amusing, but also interesting. A secondary aim should be the promotion of a healthy moral tone. Here, likewise, Mr. Lyffield succeeds. It is true that he has not quite discarded the usual ingredients which are at present considered essential for the manufacture of a three-volume novel, since in the pages before us we come across both adultery and fornication; but these little failings are neither obtruded nor palliated. Having said thus much in favour of Mr. Lyffield's promising maiden work, we would observe that the principal fault of the book is, that the characters somewhat lack individuality. They give evidence of care and finish; moreover, they do not offend against probability; but, from an absence of vigour in the drawing, they do not stand out as the principal *dramatis personæ* should. This defect probably proceeds from want of practice and confidence. No doubt, with experience, his outlines will be more boldly drawn. Imagine, O Materfamilias, the heir of Aubrey Court, when not two months old, kicking and splashing about in his bath. What a wonderful child! How you must envy the possession of such a vigorous specimen of infantine humanity. Really, Mr. Lyffield, you should study baby habits a little more closely before thus rashly entering into that sacred ground, the nursery.

If, however, Mr. Lyffield does not understand babies, he does their mammas both before and after marriage. His domestic scenes are very pleasing and natural, while in his love-making he is tender without being ridiculous. Neither does he want for humour. Throughout the book there is a great deal of genial fun. Aubrey is engaged to Beatrice, the daughter of Colonel Harrington—who had died some years pre-

viously—by a Sicilian lady, whose brother, the Prince of Monte-Gibello, from a desire to obtain the management and disposal of his niece's property, seeks to prevent the marriage. In order to baffle his schemess it is settled that the ceremony, instead of being performed at Florence, shall take place at Spezia. A sort of family council is held to consult as to the arrangements, and among those present is one Charley Stokes, a cousin of Aubrey's, and lieutenant of H.M.S. Dryad, just then refitting at Leghorn. While the party are devising means for overcoming the various difficulties which beset them, Charley breaks in as follows:—

Let us all go down to Leghorn to-morrow, go on board the Dryad, and there, under the British flag, in the presence of Captain Barker and his officers, they can be spliced in no time. If the Consul is wanted, of course he will be too happy to come. Then if old Prince What's-his-name comes on board and gives us any of his nonsense, we will just have him seized up to the gratings and tip him a couple of dozen. See if I don't pass the word to the boatswain's mates to serve out to him with a will."

Fortunately for Mrs. Harrington's feelings, this proposal to scarify her brother's back with a cat-o'-nine-tails, being made in English, was to her unintelligible.

Practical Chemistry. By Stevenson Macadam, Ph.D., &c. (W. & R. Chambers.)—This is the second volume on Chemistry in Chambers's useful Educational Course. The first, written by Dr. Geo. Wilson, is well known and much valued, and is, we believe, the principal text-book used in schools, and in the matriculation examination. Dr. Wilson's book dwelt more upon theoretical chemistry; beginning at the beginning, it ended by leaving the student in possession of a clear knowledge of the outlines of the science. Dr. Macadam now takes one of the most important branches, and in his practical little book gives almost all the information that is needed in the pursuit of qualitative analytical chemistry. The numerous tables are remarkably excellent, labour having evidently been bestowed on their arrangement. The characteristic reactions of the metallic oxides, and both inorganic and organic acids, are placed after each substance, being grouped together in the usual manner. Especially noticeable for their clearness are the tables of systematic testing. The chemical student or amateur, by reference to these tables, can follow complicated processes with ease, and by a glance see the result of each step of his analysis. Finally, the table for the preliminary examination of a solid is such that the most thick-headed can understand, being arranged with that logical order and precision in which Scotchmen so greatly excel. The book contains just enough illustrations of apparatus and chemical operations as to enable the self-taught to procure or do exactly what is required. It is one of the most compendious and clear works on practical chemistry the learner can procure or the young student use for reference.

The Mosaic Records: A Full Investigation of the Difficulties Suggested by Dr. Colenso. By B. B. Rogers, M.A. Second Edition. (John Henry James Parker. Pp. 217.)—This is a very painstaking attempt to refute Bishop Colenso. Mr. Rogers has brought much learning and research to his task, and his tone throughout is quietly argumentative and often persuasive. He goes carefully into the Hebrew phrase and idiom, is familiar with the manners and customs of the East, and understands the topography and natural history of the particular region in debate.

The Giant Cities of Bashan, and Syria's Holy Places. By the Rev. J. L. Porter, A.M. (T. Nelson & Sons. Pp. 371.)—Mr. Porter writes simply and lovingly of the shrines he has visited. Speaking of the ideas entertained of the Dead Sea by travellers in former ages, he says: "It has been stated that no vegetation could exist along its shores and that no bird could fly over it; in fact, that its poisonous exhalations are fatal alike to animal and vegetable life. This is altogether untrue. At every little fountain along the shores, the vegetation has a tropical luxuriance. I have seen the oleander dipping its gorgeous flowers into the lake; and I have seen the willow and the tamarisk, and numerous other shrubs, flourishing where their stems were at certain seasons immersed in the waters. The cane-brakes on the shore abound with wild fowl, and occasionally flocks of ducks may be seen swimming far out on the sea."

The Argument, A Priori, for the Moral Attributes of God. By W. H. Gillespie. (Nimmo. Pp. 89.) *Outlines of Theology.* By Alexander Vinet.

6 MAY, 1865.

(Strahan. Pp. 556.) *The Characteristic Differences of the New Testament from the Immediately Preceding Jewish and the Immediately Succeeding Christian Literature Considered as Evidence of the Divine Origin of the New Testament.* By the Rev. Robert Sinker, B.A. (Deighton, Bell, & Co.; Bell & Daldy. Pp. 116.)—These three volumes have a family likeness. The *A Priori* argument for the moral attributes of God is but a continuation of a similar argument for "the necessary existence of God" of the same author, who thinks that the present treatise, which he is modest enough not to regard as a finished and perfect production, on the moral, which are also the relative attributes, assumes the truth of all the demonstrations and reasonings generally which are contained in the predecessor. The writer aims at "valid demonstration," and his propositions assume the strictly logical form. We have *prolegomenon*, *lemma*, *demonstration*, and *scholium*. The style is clear and intelligible, and from his point of view our author's tractates may be regarded as perfectly successful.

Outlines of Theology is composed of extracts from the various works of M. Vinet. He is wonderfully clear and propositional in most of his statements, and the logical sequence of his utterances as well as the simple transparency of his style will charm every orthodox theologian. The volume is divided into three grand sections—viz., "Man and the Gospel," "Doctrine and Morality of Christianity," and "Historical Christianity."

The Characteristic Differences of the New Testament gained last year, in the University of Cambridge, the Hulsean prize; and from the scholarship, research, and modesty of the essay, we have no doubt it deserved it. It will form an excellent hand-book for students.

The Books of the Vaudois. The Waldensian Manuscripts Preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, with an Appendix containing a Correspondence (reprinted from the *British Magazine*) on the Poems of the Poor of Lyons, the Antiquity and Genuineness of the Waldensian Literature, and the Supposed Loss of the Morland MSS. at Cambridge; with Mr. Bradshaw's Paper on his Recent Discovery of Them. By James Henthorn Todd, D.D., &c. (Macmillan & Co. Pp. 242.)—This very careful description of the Waldensian manuscripts in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, will interest deeply all those concerned to know anything of early Waldensian literature, whether it is regarded "as antiquarian reliques, as documents in the history of sectarianism, or as simple efforts of mediæval piety." The book in this form is quite an acquisition to scholars.

Christ and His Salvation, in Sermons Various Related Thereto. By Horace Bushnell, D.D. (Strahan, and Sampson Low & Co. Pp. 412.) *Christ and Man; or, God's Answer to our Chief Questions.* By William Bathgate. (Jackson & Co. Pp. 288.) *Symbols of Christ.* By Charles Stanford. (Jackson & Co. Pp. 360.)—Where the piety is equally fervid, and the orthodoxy equally sound in all, the best plan, perhaps, for giving our readers an idea of the books whose titles we have just written, is to indicate briefly how each writer treats his subject. Dr. Bushnell's style is concise and clear, and occasionally picturesque, and his teaching is eminently practical.

Mr. Stanford is ingenious and graphic.

Mr. Bathgate's volume takes more the form of a treatise. He is copious, earnest, and now and then argumentative. His "attempt is to show that our Lord Jesus Christ, in His person, His attributes, and His offices, is God's present answer to man's chief questions, whether of the individual soul or of any one of the small or great circles of human society."

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

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OBITUARY.

ADMIRAL FITZROY.

ADMIRAL FITZROY, the skilful sailor, the travelled naturalist, the best friend—nay, a very saviour—of the population which fringes our sea-girt isle, has gone from among us. Death has prevented the continuation of those labours a cessation from which would have prevented death. Rarely have we read anything more touching than the account given at the inquest of this heroic man's struggle to do the work he had set himself to do. "Reduced in health from excessive mental study, reduced in body from mental fatigue," he still asked "to what extent will it be safe to go on?" and when his medical adviser bade him rest from his labours, he still begged permission "to finish some matters he had on hand;" among them, to reply to M. Le Verrier, who, second only to himself, has helped humanity at large, by bringing meteorology to bear practically on the safety of our sailors and fishermen.

Would that the advice had been taken! The work was attempted, and we all know the sad result. While we mourn his untimely loss, let us hope that it will be eloquent to too many of our overwrought thinkers and workers, who, in their limitless enthusiasm, forget their limited powers of endurance, and discount the future.

A hasty glance at his busy life will show his more recent work is by no means his only claim to be reckoned among the friends of science. Born on the 5th of July, 1805, he entered the Navy in October, 1819, and in 1824 obtained his commission as lieutenant. After serving on the Mediterranean and South American stations, he became, in 1828, flag-lieutenant to Rear Admiral Otway, at Rio Janeiro. On the arrival at this station of the two vessels *Adventure* and *Beagle*, appointed by the Admiralty to survey the Southern coasts of South America, he was

commissioned in December of the same year as commander of the *Beagle*, acting under Captain King, the senior officer of the expedition. And now began the great work of the early portion of Admiral Fitzroy's life. After taking surveys and making important hydrographical observations in South America, he returned to England in 1830, completing his official duties in connexion with the survey in 1831.

In this year occurred a striking instance of the kind and honourable character of the Admiral. He had brought to England three Fuegians; and being unable to return them by other means, he would not permit them to return alone in a merchant vessel, from which they might have been landed away from their tribe. He therefore chartered a small vessel to convey the natives, under his own charge, to *Tierra del Fuego*. Happily, he thought of extending the object of the voyage, and for this purpose succeeded in obtaining the help of the Government, who again commissioned him to proceed to South America in command of the *Beagle*. Prompted by his love for science, Admiral Fitzroy spared no pains to render this expedition as complete as possible. It was he who proposed to the Admiralty that a naturalist should accompany the expedition. Mr. Darwin was appointed, and thus, indirectly as well as directly, he has rendered the second voyage of the *Beagle* one of the most famous on record. The important scientific results of this expedition, which returned in 1836, after an absence of five years, are known to all. With Mr. Darwin's celebrated journal, they form the subject of an excellent work written by the Admiral.

In 1841 Admiral Fitzroy was elected M.P. for the city of Durham, and in 1843 was appointed Governor of New Zealand, holding this appointment three years. But it is the meteorological researches of the Admiral which have caused his name to be so widely known. His "forecasts" have become household-words, and have been commended to scientific men by the philosophic caution with which they were given. Admiral Fitzroy did not speculate on the weather; he never pretended to prophecy. Day by day he slowly felt his way along the dark and little-trodden paths of meteorological science, hoping to discover, as the end of patient research, some general law underlying the many scattered facts he collected.

His system of "storm warnings," although but a few years old, will soon be universally employed throughout Europe, thanks to the co-operation of such men as Le Verrier and Buys Ballot. The results of the first year's use of them commanded the appreciation of both scientific and practical men, in spite of the very natural prejudices of both; but now they are looked upon as essential as a lifeboat or a lighthouse at our ports; and the man who would neglect them is simply regarded as foolhardy by his brother seamen. Many a stalwart fellow who will hear the news of the Admiral's death flashed by our Coast Guard round our shores would have been food for fishes long ago had the storm signals not sent their friendly warning. The decreased death rate of our sailors and fishermen is his best monument.

Admiral Fitzroy was made a fellow of the Royal Society in the year 1851; he was also an F.R.G.S., and a correspondent of the French Academy of Sciences. He was twice married—in 1836 to the daughter of Major-General O'Brien, and after the death of this lady he married the daughter of Mr. Smyth, of Yorkshire, who survives him. A son and two daughters remain by his first marriage.

Beside a Government blue book on meteorology, the Admiral recently published a large volume, entitled the "Weather Book," in which he embodied his principal results and detailed his method of "forecasting."

The Admiral was the youngest son of the late General Lord Charles Fitzroy, by his second marriage with Lady Frances Anne Stuart.

A letter to the Academy of Sciences, from Geneva, announces the death of M. Léon Dufour, at the age of eighty-six years.

We have to announce the death, at Soleure, of M. A. Gressly, one of the leading Swiss geologists.

The death of Dr. Hiffelsheim, at Paris, is announced. His numerous researches on the theory of the movements of the heart, and on the applications of electricity to medicine, have given him a wide-spread reputation among the scientific men of Paris. We have also to record the death, on the 17th ult., of M. Scheler, professor of Zootechny, at the Royal Agricultural Institution at Gembloux, Belgium.

In a catalogue of autograph letters, historical documents, and early charters, which has just been issued by Mr. Waller, of Fleet-street, are some very interesting deeds relating to the transfer of property, chiefly in the hundred of Carhampton, Somersetshire, by one of which, entirely written in English, and dated 1476, "On the Feast of Saynt Petre de Dunster, called Lammasse, or *Singage*, called the George in Market Strete, appertaining to the Lord of Dunster, Town, and Priory of Dunster," &c., is transferred to William Eylesworthy and Johanna, his wife. What is the meaning of the word *singage*, thus applied to a building? Professor Brewer suggests, supposing that the word is rightly deciphered, that "*singage*" must be connected with "*cinga*," which Ducange interprets as "*modus agri*," a measure of land.

We are not at all inclined to quarrel with the publication of Schiller's almanacks. How interesting it would be to us, could we have access to similar records of the daily life of Shakespeare or Ben Jonson. Entries of letters written and received, of visits paid and of bad poetry sent him, lists of clothing and wine, alternate with some valuable items. We learn, for instance, that Schiller wrote "*Phèdre*" in twenty-six days, and the three *Wallenstein* plays in twenty months. There is literary interest in the mention of a letter to Kant, of the coming of Fichte, and of visits from Herder and Goethe. "Began to study the history of Mary Stuart," April 26th, 1799, and "read the two first acts of 'Mary Stuart' to Goethe," September 16th, of the same year, are valuable facts. But perhaps the most curious in the whole book is the entry of a letter to Sheridan, in August, 1799, which was just about the time when Sheridan was bringing out the translation of Kotzebue's "*Pizarro*." Has anything been ever heard of this letter? The discovery of it would probably repay the trouble of an inquirer.

If some arrangement is not made with Sir Thomas Wilson (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*), the public seem likely to be deprived of Hampstead Heath. Two barristers who have inquired into the subject say that it is "doubtful" whether the lord of the manor cannot build upon the heath, if once he makes arrangements with the copyholders. Should that ever happen, it would be a severe loss to London, already hemmed in by houses on every side, except where Hampstead Heath breaks the line. There are about 250 acres, and 500,000l. would secure them to the public for ever. Mr. Turner would have the Government give part of this money, and the other part drawn from Metropolitan rates. If the matter is not settled, the public may lose the day, and one great lung of London would be gone. At any cost, such a misfortune should be prevented.

SIR HENRY DYMOKE, the hereditary champion of England, died at his house in Portman-square, on Friday, the 28th ult. Sir Henry Dymoke went through the farce of doing the challenging, armed *cap-a-pie*, and mounted on one of Ducrow's trained horses, at the coronation of George IV., from the entrance to Westminster Hall. The masquerading was dispensed with at the coronation of William IV. and at that of Her Majesty. Let us hope that this vestige of barbarism has finally died out with the late champion.

At the Crystal Palace ten Opera Concerts, comprising the entire artistes of the Royal Italian Opera and Her Majesty's Theatre, will be given on Saturdays during the coming three months. The Great Flower Show of the Season will take place on Saturday, the 20th May. The Great Rose Show, the German Gymnastic Fête, the Dramatic College Fête, the Archery Fêtes, with a Grand Pyrotechnic Display, and other gatherings, will follow in due course, and that of 5,000 singers of the Metropolitan Schools, on Wednesday next, will be conducted by Mr. G. W. Martin.

THE West London Working Classes' Industrial Exhibition was opened on Tuesday, in the Floral Hall, Covent Garden.

FIFTEEN thousand pounds is still required for completing the clock tower in New Palace-yard at Westminster, and 1,000l. for bas-reliefs to the statue of Richard Cœur de Lion.

On Tuesday evening a *conversazione* was held at the gallery in Conduit-street, on occasion of the 15th Architectural Exhibition, and in conjunction with it the eleventh annual exhibition of the Photographic Society of London was held.

There were drawings representing various important buildings already erected, and plans of others projected; and there was also a large collection of models of churches and other buildings. The photographic part of the exhibition was pleasing evidence of the great advances continually being made in the art.

THE estimates for education, science, and art, issued on Monday last, show an increase on those of last year of 51,201l., the total being 1,362,821l. The principal items of increase is in the science and art department, 26,259l. Of this, 10,000l. is for furniture and fittings for South Kensington Museum, School of Mines, and College of Chemistry. There is another increase of nearly 8,000l. on institutions in Ireland connected with the department. The amount for public education is 693,078l., against 705,404l. last year. There is also an increase of 8,037l. for the British Museum, of which 4,500l. comes under the head of "Special purchases and acquisitions." The National Gallery, too, shows an increase of 9,460l.

TUESDAY'S *Gazette* contains the list of Royal Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty to the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1867, at the head of which appears the name of the Prince of Wales. Henry Cole, C.B., is appointed secretary, and the commission, which is dated the 27th ult., will continue in force till the close of the Exhibition.

THE *Annual Register* for 1864, just issued by Messrs. Rivington, is an improvement on last year's volume for 1863, and as a book of ready reference, for the reasons stated in No. 77 of THE READER, it should find a place in every well-furnished library.

THE new volume of Bohn's Illustrated Library, just issued by Messrs. Bell and Daldy, is a revised and enlarged edition of Professor Craik's "*Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties*."

THE fourth volume of the "People's Edition of Merivale's History of the Romans under the Empire" brings the history down to the death of Augustus, and concludes with a masterly sketch of the state of the Roman Empire in its unity at the date of the *Pax Romana*: universal tranquillity.

THE only acknowledged play of Shakespeare's, among the seven added to the third folio, is "*Pericles*." Mr. Booth has completed his edition of the parent text of Shakespeare's plays by the publication of "*Pericles*," carefully reprinted from the third folio, to match his reprint of the first folio of 1623.

PROFESSOR MASSON'S book on "Recent British Philosophy," and Mr. Palgrave's, in which he narrates his journeyings in Arabia, may be expected before the end of the month. If Mr. Palgrave's written account is as good as his spoken one before the Geographical Society, we may hope for an interesting book, for, as has been justly remarked, his tale relates to "an absolutely new and virgin country, hitherto unvisited except under conditions which reduced the traveller to the category of a mere senseless corpse in a coffin." But this is not the only book on travels Messrs. Macmillan announce. Lady Duff Gordon, whose delicate health banishes her from our shores, dates now from Egypt letters if possible more interesting than those from the Cape, which appeared in "*Vacation Tourists*" for 1862-3. We believe that by her wonderful power of attaching the natives to her she has been enabled to obtain an insight into their manners and customs, as well as to collect facts, which will render the volume of great interest.

A LITTLE book is announced for immediate publication on a subject of painful interest, awakened by the recent melancholy deaths of Admiral Fitzroy and Mr. Prescott—"*Mental Exertion: its Influence on Health*." The work is more anecdotal than scientific, although it has been edited by Dr. Arthur Leared, of the Great Northern Hospital. One chapter is on the education of scientific and literary men, the excitement they live in, their health, and the age they usually attain; another is devoted to a consideration of the cause and treatment of a very general trouble, indigestion in literary men.

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER, AND Co. will publish during the present month: "*Hardy Ferns; How I Collected and Cultivated Them*," by Nona Bellairs; "*King's Treasures and Queen's Gardens*," by John Ruskin, M.A.; a cheap illustrated edition of "*Romola*," by George Eliot; a similar illustrated edition of "*Transformation*," or, the Romance of Monte Beni," by Nathaniel Hawthorne; and "*Waterloo; a Sequel to the 'Conscript'*," from the French of Erckmann Chatrian. They have begun a new series of

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CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR ACTORS.

To the Editor of THE READER.

their monthly shilling volumes of works of fiction with "A Simple Woman," by the author of "Nut Brown Maids," "Wearing the Willow," &c.; and the following works have been selected for early publication: "Normanton," by A. J. Barrowcliffe; "Skirmishing," by the author of "Cousin Stella;" "Farina; a Legend of Cologne," by George Meredith; "Winifred's Wooing; a Novelette," by Georgiana M. Craik; "Lena; or, the Silent Woman," by the author of "Beyminstre," "Entanglements; a Romance," by the author of "Mr. Arle;" and "Beyminstre."

MESSRS. HURST AND BLACKETT will publish "The Life of his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman," by the Right Rev. H. E. Manning, D.D.; "Sport and Sportsmen: a Book of Recollections," by Charles Stretton; and "Yachting Round the West of England," by the Rev. A. G. L'Estrange.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN, we learn, will soon issue two more volumes of their series of Scientific School Class Books. The first is a new edition of the Astronomer Royal's widely-known "Lectures on Astronomy," Mr. Stirling, a senior wrangler, being the editor; and the second is "Lessons on Elementary Physiology," by Professor Huxley.

MR. STANFORD has in the press "The Russians in Central Asia," translated from the Russian by J. and R. Michell; and "Buenos Ayres and Argentine Gleanings," by Thomas J. Hutchinson.

MESSRS. CHAPMAN AND HALL have added to their Select Library of Works of Fiction "Constance Herbert," by Miss Jewsbury; and "Mainstone's Housekeeper," by Miss Meteyard. They have nearly ready for publication "The World Before the Deluge," by Louis Figuier, translated from the French, of the original of which upwards of 25,000 copies have been sold in two years.

MR. ANTHONY TROLLOPE'S "Can You Forgive Her?" has reached the seventeenth number, in two chapters of which, "The First Kiss," and "The Last Kiss," the reader gets an insight into what will be the probable close of the story. Mr. Dickens's thirteenth number of "Our Mutual Friend" lets us into more secrets, and casts a dark shadow across the path of Eugene Wrayburn.

MR. EDWARD WILBERFORCE'S novel of "One with Another" will shortly be published by Messrs. Allen and Co.

THE plans for the building of the Paris Exhibition of 1867 are now ready, although its site is not yet fixed upon. The Exhibition is to cost twenty million of francs, twelve million of which are to be contributed by the State and the municipality of Paris, and six million more by the railway companies, the credit and trade establishments and factories, for which purpose a subscription has been opened. The building is to be in the form of an ellipse, which is supposed to give the greatest advantages for the provision of light and air.

M. ALFRED FRANKLIN is about to publish an interesting bibliographical work, under the title of "L'Histoire de la Bibliothèque de l'Abbaye de St. Victor à Paris." The library dates from the year 1133, in which the "Necrologia" of the abbey, preserved in the Imperial Library, records the bequest of Thibaud, Archdeacon of Notre-Dame, of various books of the Old and New Testament. In the infancy of printing, the purchase, towards the middle of the 15th century, is noticed of a copy of "Sancti Hieronymi Epistolæ" from Scheffer, Henlif, and Fust. The French Revolution closed the Abbaye de St. Victor, and on the 18th of February, 1791, the doors of the library were sealed, and only reopened to convey the accumulated literary treasures of 650 years into the national depositories.

THE *Literarisches Centralblatt*, No. 18, gives a review of the "History of the Sect of Mahārājas in Western India;"—the *Schweiz. Museum*, iv., 4, one of Freeman's "History of Federal Government;"—the *Preussische Jahrbücher*, xv., 4, contains "Lord Byron," by Fr. Kreyssig;—the *Magazin für Literatur des Auslandes*, No. 17, "Briefe über Shakespeare's Hamlet," by Herman von Friesen;—the *Europa*, No. 18, "Die Dampfkraft im Alterthum;"—the *Bremer Sonntagsblatt*, No. 16, "Napoleon III. und seine Geschichte Julius Caesar's;"—the *Nordische Revue*, iii., 3, "Shakespeare-reliquien;"—and the *Ausland*, No. 16, papers on the Women of Persia, the Red Sea, Americans and American Women, the Island of Ceylon, and on the Poisonous Qualities of Tobacco.

Sir,—Freedom of discussion in theatrical matters is too great a boon not to be appreciated by all who have any hope of the improvement of our stage, now that the field of so-called dramatic criticism is closed, for the most part, to all but professed play-adapters, whose principle is never to say a bad word of any but those who venture to write better pieces than themselves. But, though plain speaking may be a blessing, it is a blessing that may be abused; and I hope that you will allow me space for a few remarks on the letter that appeared in your columns last week with the signature of "Histriomastix."

Let me premise, that I have always lifted up my voice and made my protest (in writing where I could) against the self-seeking vanity of actors and the dull indifference of our public, who swallow the bad in default of the better, and are thankful. Most especially do I hold in horror that mighty bugbear, the "legitimate drama," which is so oppressive just now. And the fulsome adulation of the critics I abhor, believing that the true end of criticism is to improve. But that end it may miss by falling into the other extreme, and, like "vaulting ambition," overleap itself. "Histriomastix" disclaims, in elegant language, the intention of "running a muck at everything;" but that is precisely what he does, Mr. Phelps and the "supernumeraries" bearing the brunt of his attack. Now I am no wholesale admirer of Mr. Phelps. As the soul of that terrible Shakespearian sham at Drury-lane, I regard him at present with no favourable eye. With all that "Histriomastix" can say of his *Macbeth* I agree, except when he charges him with pronouncing "Hear it not" as "Yeurrrr eet naut," which is neither funny nor true. But not content with calling Mr. Phelps a bad *Macbeth*, your correspondent must needs say he is the "type of a bad actor." There is meaning in the French proverb, "*Pas de fumée sans feu*." And I believe that there is generally some ground for a high reputation. Not always, but generally. Many have gone to see Mr. Charles Kean in *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*, having heard him called a great actor, and come home disappointed and disgusted. No wonder; but then they have not seen him as *Mephistopheles* or *Louis XI.*; and in melodramatic parts of that description I do not know his equal. So in certain characters Mr. Phelps is admirable. He is not always a good comic actor, for his *Falstaff* is signally bad; he is not always a bad tragedian, for his *Richelieu* is remarkably good—or was when I saw it some three years ago. Nor is he always bad in Shakespearian parts, for his *Shallow* and *Bottom* are excellent. Still more so his *Sir Peter Teazle* and his *Sir Anthony Absolute*. It is absurd to say that one who can play such different parts as he plays them is the "type of a bad actor." If "Histriomastix" has seen him in all or any one of them, few playgoers will rely on his judgment: if he has not, as his avowal of a "settled resolution never to enter a London theatre" would lead us to believe, he has no right whatever to make these sweeping assertions, which only do his cause harm.

Now as to the poor "supers," on whom he wastes such a deal of righteous indignation. "What is the good," he says, "of those seedy vagabonds," &c., &c. Not much good, perhaps; but a play can't do without them. I admit that "supers" are generally evils, though necessary; but I opine that we cannot expect much dignity of bearing and aristocratic beauty at a shilling a night; and yet in a well-managed theatre—as, for instance, at the Princess's, under Mr. Charles Kean—I have seen these poor underlings act better than any one else in the play. And of one thing I am sure, that the "supers" of the French or German stage are every whit as bad as ours, if not worse. Attacking these poor creatures is about as practical as Don Quixote's onslaught on the windmills.

But it is different when "Histriomastix" runs a muck (I thank thee, friend, for teaching me that word) against the "rank and file" of the stage; by which expression he means, I suppose, the minor actor as distinguished from the "super,"—the "walking gentleman," the "heavy father," and the like. It is not easy to argue with one who avoids the theatre as much as he can, and can, therefore, know nothing of what he describes. But as far as our friend the "legitimate" is concerned, he is undoubtedly right; nothing can be worse than our minor actors in

the poetical drama, except, in most instances, the leading ones. I can well suppose that this was better formerly, because the poetical drama was the chief theatric food of our ancestors, and all actors were trained to the delivery of blank verse. That art we have lost, and I, for one, should not be sorry for it, if I thought that in its place we might hope to see a good modern drama uniformly well played by actors who have studied in the school of nature, not of "tradition." And to this, I believe, our stage is gradually tending. It has to contend with terrible obstacles—with the vanity in the actors and indifference of the public, to which I have already alluded; with the incapable—or, worse, dishonest—criticisms of the papers; with occasional and spasmodic revulsions in favour of the "legitimate," which invariably leave us worse than we were before; and with that monster "Tradition," which perpetuates on our stage manners now extinct in real life, if they ever existed there at all, but for which our authors, far more than our actors, are to blame. But in spite of all this, I believe we are improving. Educated people are beginning to go to the play again, and it is rare now at a dinner party or a "drum" not to hear the latest productions at the theatres discussed by people who, some few years ago, never troubled their heads about them, or visited them at all, except perhaps "with the children." And when journals like THE READER admit letters and articles into their columns from playgoers who don't write plays, and are not hand-and-glove with the players, there is hope for dramatic criticism. In the actors, I venture to think, there is some improvement already. Of course, "Histriomastix," as he doesn't frequent the theatres, never saw the "Ticket-of-Leave Man." But the great merit of that drama, and the secret of its success, was the excellence, with some few blemishes, of what the French call the *ensemble*. The same may be said of "David Garrick," in which Mr. Sothorn showed to all the more advantage because those who surrounded him acted well. And if I may advise "Histriomastix," he will let nothing draw him to Drury-lane again, but he will go and see "Arrah-na-Pogue," at the Princess's, where not only the rank and file, but even the poor supers, act capitally; or, if he can forgive the faults of a piece for the merits of the performers, let him go to the Olympic, and see "Settling Day," which is, to my thinking, an example of how a play should be acted, and how it should not be written. In that piece he will see a young lover, with a very small part, dressed like a gentleman, looking, speaking, and walking like a gentleman; and I daresay he will be the first to cry out, like most Englishmen when they do meet with a quiet and unobtrusive actor of that description, "What a stick!" But from such "sticks" is our best hope of a goodly tree. The merits of young actors like Mr. Coghlan at the Olympic (the one of whom I have just spoken), or Mr. Montague at the St. James's, deserve recognition and encouragement (which the dear critics never give them), if only for having, "*pace Histriomastigis*" (I suppose that's his genitive), the ways and language of real gentlemen. A few years ago, and there was not a "*jeune premier*" on our stage who had.

One word about the great and acknowledged superiority of the French stage of which I venture to doubt if "Histriomastix" has any great knowledge, when he praises the way in which the masterpieces of Molière are represented at the Français. It is in the modern plays, not in the old, that the admirable company of that theatre put forth their strength; whereas I have too often seen the comedies of Molière, as far as the *ensemble* is concerned, almost as badly played as the "School for Scandal" at Drury-lane; which, for my sins, I saw the other night. It is the acting of a play like the "Fils de Giboyer," or "Maitre Guerin," which makes an Englishman despair of his own stage by comparison. The French "rank and file" are better than our own, of course, though not so much better as they seem to us. I have heard Frenchmen say that their "dukes and counts" are, to them, very unlike the real thing, though foreigners might not find it out. But the real secret of French superiority, I suspect, is that their *officers* are not only much better than ours, but that they are always ready, for the nonce, to take their place among the rank and file. This is what no English actor who is or thinks himself good ever does, or, I fear, ever will do.

There is an unlucky suggestion at the end of your correspondent's letter which alone would make me sceptical as to its critical value. He wants actors to be superseded by "well-managed

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societies of amateurs." If this is a joke, why, Dundrearylike, "I don't see it." If it is meant to express a real belief in the superiority of amateurs, it is a fatal mistake. *Experto crede*, Mr. Editor. I have been a great sinner in that way. In every line of character and in every size of stage, from the biggest theatre to the smallest drawing-room, have I bored my admiring friends. And thus much, at least, my experience has taught me, that acting demands long and conscientious study from those who would profess the art themselves, or criticise it in others. "Histriomastix," by his own showing, has not learnt this lesson; and I believe such tirades as his to be quite as harmful as the system of "vapid puffing" he rightly condemns. The language in which he indulges might have exposed him, had he lived in another age, to much the same punishment as befell the old writer whose signature he so modestly assumes.—I am, &c., F. D.

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY AND THE BALLOT.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—In the review, headed as above, in your last number, and signed "J. S. M.," the well-known writer does not appear to me to have been quite successful in answering the arguments of the pamphlet he criticizes. Indeed, on the most important point, his own reasoning seems equally applicable to the opposite side of the question. I beg leave, therefore, to make a few observations on what appears to me, as I doubt not it must to many of your readers, a very inconclusive part of his article.

Mr. Mill truly says, that a voter is rarely influenced by "the fraction of a fraction of an interest, which he as an individual may have, in what is beneficial to the public," but that his motive, if uninfluenced by direct bribery or threats, is simply "to do right," to vote for the man whose opinions he thinks most true, and whose talents seem to him best adapted to benefit the country. The fair inference from this seems to be, that if you keep away from a man the influences of bribery and intimidation, there is no motive left but to do what he thinks will serve the public interest—in other words, "the desire to do right." Instead of drawing this inference, however, it is concluded that, as the "honest vote" is influenced by "social duty," the motive for voting honestly cannot be so strong "when done in secret, and when the voter can neither be admired for disinterested, nor blamed for selfish conduct." But Mr. Mill has not told us what motive there can possibly be to make the man, voting in secret, vote against his own conviction of what is right. Are the plaudits of a circle of admiring friends necessary to induce a man to vote for the candidate he honestly thinks the best; and is the fear of their blame the only influence that will keep him from "mean and selfish conduct," when no possible motive for such conduct exists, and when we know that, in thousands of cases, such blame does not keep him from what is much worse than "mean and selfish conduct," taking a direct bribe?

Perhaps, however, Mr. Mill means (though he nowhere says so) that "class interest" would be stronger than public interest—that the voter's share of interest in legislation that would benefit his class or profession, would overbalance his share of interest in the welfare of the whole community. But if this be so, we may assert, first, that the social influence of those around him will, in nine cases out of ten, go to increase and strengthen the ascendancy of "class interests," and that it is much more likely that a man should be thus induced to vote for class interests as against public interests, than the reverse. In the second place, we maintain that any temporary influence whatever, which would induce a man to vote differently from what he would have done by his own unbiassed judgment, is bad—that a man has a perfect right to uphold the interests of his class, and that it is, on the whole, better for the community that he should do so. For, if the voter is sufficiently instructed, honest, and far-seeing, he will be convinced that nothing that is disadvantageous to the community as a whole can be really and permanently beneficial to his class or party; while, if he is less advanced in social and political knowledge, he will solve the problem the other way, and be fully satisfied that in advancing the interests of his class he is also benefiting the community at large. In neither case, is it at all likely, or indeed desirable, that the temporary and personal influence of others' opinions at the time of an election, should cause him to vote contrary to the convictions he has deliberately arrived at, under the continued

action of those same influences, and which convictions are the full expression of his political knowledge and honesty at the time?

It seems to me, therefore, that if you can arrange matters so that every voter may be enabled to give his vote uninfluenced by immediate fear of injury or hope of gain (by intimidation or bribery), the only motives left to influence him are his convictions as to the effects of certain measures, or a certain policy, on himself as an individual, on his class, or on the whole community. The combined effect of these convictions on his mind will inevitably go to form his idea of "what is right" politically, that idea which, we quite agree with Mr. Mill, will in most cases influence his vote, rather than any one of the more or less remote personal interests which have been the foundation of that idea. From this point of view, I should be inclined to maintain that the right of voting is a "personal right" rather than a "public duty," and that a man is in no sense "responsible" for the proper exercise of it to the public, any more than he is responsible for the convictions that lead him to vote as he does. It seems almost absurd to say that each man is responsible to every or to any other man for the free exercise of his infinitesimal share in the government of the country, because, in that case, each man in turn would act upon others exactly as he is acted upon by them, and thus the final result must be the same as if each had voted entirely uninfluenced by others. What, therefore, is the use of such mutual influence and responsibility? You cannot by such means increase the average intelligence or morality of the country; and it must be remembered, that the character and opinions, which really determine each man's vote, have already been modified or even formed by the long-continued action of those very social influences which it is said are essential to the right performance of each separate act of voting. It appears to me that such influences, if they really produce any fresh effect, are a moral intimidation of the worst kind, and are an additional argument in favour of, rather than against, the ballot.

Two other questions remain. Is the ballot necessary to prevent bribery and intimidation? Is it so injurious to independence of character as to overbalance its undoubted utility? I think Mr. Berkeley's letter in the *Times* in reply to Mr. Mill, and the experience of every general election, are sufficient to answer the first question in the affirmative. The answer to the second entirely depends upon the state of civilization and independence to which we have arrived; and it seems to me that, in the days of standing armies, of an elaborate Poor Law, of State interference in education, of the overwhelming influence of wealth and the priesthood, we have not arrived at that stage of general advancement and independence of thought and action in which we ought to give up so great and immediate a benefit to thousands as real freedom of voting, for the infinitesimal advantage to the national character which might be derived from the independent and open voting of the few who would feel it compatible with their duty to their families to struggle against unfair influence and unjust intimidation. A. R. W.

ALSO QUHA VNDERSTUDE.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. FitzEdward Hall, has met with hard treatment from your other controversialists as to the meaning of the phrase above. He interpreted it in the only way possible to any man who has studied Early Scotch or English. He proved his rendering by parallel passages, in a very careful note to his edition of *Lauder*. But he was then corrected or commented on, in your columns, by two writers, who evidently were not familiar with Early Scotch or English idioms, and, without any other evidence than their own guesses or fancies, wanted us to adopt their crude renderings instead of his, which was really proven. Last week, too, Mr. Asher, because Mr. Hall said that *who* meant *one*, tried to make him assert that he and Mätzner said *who* was derived from *one*, or *vice versa*. I need not say Mr. Hall never wrote any such nonsense. He asked for proof that the old "*as who sayth*"—where *who*=*one*, or *they*; Fr. *ou*—was still extant as Mätzner asserts it to be. Will your correspondents give us this proof, instead of finding fault with Mr. Hall's well-considered and certain interpretation of *also quha vnderstude*?

F. J. FURNIVALL.

3 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn,
May 2, 1865.

SCIENCE.

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

THE untimely death of the Superintendent of the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade will, we trust, be the occasion of reconsidering the duties that should be assigned to that office. Its functions have never yet been developed to the extent which the scientific needs of the country demand; neither has it methodised those data which the widely reaching hands of our marine are prompt to procure. Let the forecasting continue, if it be desired: certainly, let the advent of storms on our coasts be signalled, and let the publications of the office contain retrospective diagrams showing what the weather really was in comparison with what had been expected. Let some scientific value be given, by these and other obvious methods, to all the operations it undertakes.

We want simple accounts of existing weather, illustrated by diagrams, and embracing the whole globe, so far as observers extend. The addition of three or four more copying clerks to the staff of the office would be sufficient to put the materials into shape. It is not a great undigested mass of elaborately-reduced observations that we want, but broad, simple generalizations, which should appear before the interest of their subject has wholly gone by. Who knows, for instance, the limit of the intense cold of last March? Who knows if the weather in the southern hemisphere sympathises, to any considerable extent, with abnormal derangements in the northern hemisphere? Nay, who knows where the east winds of spring first make their appearance on the earth's surface? Yet there is a sufficiency of data for the determination of all these questions. But they exist as vast masses of crude material which no one endeavours to correlate. The efforts that are wasted in meteorological observations for the want of the action of a central bureau is something appalling to think of.

A meteorological office ought to take in hand no more material than it can generalise; and whatever it takes in hand, it should rapidly issue in an intelligible and a pictorial form. The French Observatory now publishes daily bulletins that are freely bought by the public. Our Meteorological-office might do the same. It might work in a much more interesting manner, and yet make the issue of its bulletins self-supporting.

We want frequent maps of the progress of harvest, of haymaking, and of other agricultural subjects bearing closely on meteorology. The progress of blights, of epidemics, of cattle and grain diseases, would legitimately be noted in the same bulletins. So would the arrival or departure of migrating birds, and the first flowering of certain typical plants, and those other matters of variable periodicity to which Professor Quetelet, the head of the Meteorological Department of Belgium, has given well-deserved attention.

If the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade were put on a proper basis, under a capable superintendent, he might compile a daily chart of interesting and valuable statistical facts. The public would also be able to purchase lithographed copies of those charts, at a price that would cover the cost of their being printed. On this basis we should be able to obtain, by a small increase to the staff of the office, and at a trifling increase of charge to the State, daily pictures of the face of England, and occasional pictures of the entire globe, showing the extent and manner in which larger areas of the earth's surface are simultaneously affected, directly or indirectly, by meteorological influences.

THE DEAD SEA.

M. LARTET has recently communicated to the French Academy of Sciences the results of a careful study he has made during the past year of the entire basin of the Dead Sea, in which work he has had the advantage of the direction of the Duke of Luynes.

Viewed in connexion with the Palestine Exploration Fund, this paper is just now of considerable interest. We therefore give a summary of the results M. Lartet has obtained.

The saltiness of many Asiatic lakes, and of the Dead Sea among them, M. Lartet considers to be caused by the proximity of large quantities of rocksalt, or of earths containing rich saliferous deposits. Especially is this the case around the Dead Sea, where from time immemorial there has been known to exist the Mountain of Salt,

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in the Arabic of which it is believed that the name of Sodom may be recognized.

M. Lartet has carefully examined the formation of the basin of the Dead Sea, and finds that it was formed at the end of the eocene epoch, as is shown by the character of the superficial marine deposits in neighbouring countries. But before this period dislocations were produced in the submarine strata; a fracture opened in a north and south direction; which by consecutive convulsions prolonged itself northwards, determining, upon the shores of the Mediterranean, the formation of the mountainous ridges of Palestine, and also producing a narrow and lengthened depression which separates the high tablelands of Arabia. From this depression has sprung the commencement of the hydrographical system of this region. Thus, the Dead Sea, or Lake Asphaltites, was formed, from its origin, without any communication with the ocean.

The level of this lake, as shown by the great extent of horizontal layers of marl which have evidently been deposited at a former time, ought at a certain epoch to have been 100 metres above its present altitude. The consequent extension of the waters of the lake is clearly shown by the sediments which cover vast surfaces to the north and south of its actual limits; a great change must, therefore, have since occurred in the hydrographical arrangement of the country. Owing to the absence of fossils in the sediments above mentioned, it is impossible to assign the exact age of the elevation of the waters of the lake. Nevertheless, by reckoning the probable duration of the phenomena which have preceded and followed this important phase in the history of the Dead Sea, the time of its occurrence can be fixed at about the end of the tertiary or the beginning of the quaternary period.

In the diminution of the extent of the lake M. Lartet imagines he can discover an evidence of the disappearance of former glaciers. This he thinks well accords with those traces of ancient glacier moraines upon which Dr. Hooker believes the cedars of Lebanon now grow.

During a later period, phenomena of a different nature have otherwise altered the physical aspect of this country. At the north-east of the Dead Sea volcanic eruptions have produced immense flows (*coulées*) of basaltic rock, portions of which had even overflowed into the valley of the Jordan. These eruptions made Eastern Syria at one time a volcanic district equal to that of Auvergne. Among other smaller basaltic streams, three were found bordering on the eastern edge of the Dead Sea, to the south of the little plain of Zarah.

Thermal springs, minerals similar to those bituminous emanations which have accompanied or followed the volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes still felt in this country, were stated to be the last important phenomena of which the basin of the Dead Sea has been the theatre. The progressive lowering of the level of the waters of the lake might be the result either of a diminished supply from the atmosphere, or of evaporation becoming more rapid, but more probably it was owing to the combined effect of these two causes.

M. Lartet concludes his paper by saying: "That the most ancient sediments in the basin of the Dead Sea do not contain any traces of fossil marine organisms, and it is therefore evident that this depression has been, from its commencement, nothing more than a reservoir of atmospheric waters, whose saltiness, obtained from surrounding circumstances, is continually increased under the influence of excessive evaporation."

An idea was thrown out by M. Elie de Beaumont, which gives additional value to this statement of M. Lartet. M. Elie de Beaumont thinks that the large proportion of different salts found in the Dead Sea, Lake Van, and the Caspian Sea, appear to show that none of these sheets of water had, at any rate, derived the whole of their saltiness from the ocean. He believes their saline character to proceed from local emanations of subterranean origin, and that perhaps the ocean itself owes more or less of its own saltiness to a mixture of products from similar emanations.

UPON THE ACTION OF SULPHUR IN A NEW FORM OF VOLTAIC BATTERY.

M. MATTEUCCI has communicated to the French Academy of Sciences a memoir on the above subject, the chief points of interest in which are as follows: The author recently had his attention directed to the action of sulphur in a new

form of battery invented by M. Blanc Filipo. This battery has for its positive electrode a plate of zinc plunged in a solution of common salt, and for the negative metal a plate of lead covered by electrolysis with a very thin layer of copper; enough flowers of sulphur were then mixed with the liquid in the cell to form a thin paste. The needle of a galvanometer, which had been included in the circuit, immediately began to move upwards; after some hours it reached nearly the same deflection as would be shown by employing a Daniell's cell of equal size, and remained at the same degree for four or five days, the circuit being closed during the whole of this time. At the end of this period the layer of copper was found to have changed into sulphide of copper, and the liquid had become highly charged with sulphide of sodium mixed with traces of sulphide of copper. The only disadvantage at present connected with this battery appeared to be that during its action a small quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen was liberated; notwithstanding this, it is likely to be a most valuable instrument for telegraphic purposes.

M. Matteucci found that plates of platina, iron, copper, silver, or any other electro-negative metal, when covered with a layer of copper, which is absolutely necessary, gave a constant current, similar to the coated plate of lead. When, instead of copper, the plates were coated with silver or lead, the same action took place, the metal being changed into its sulphide—with copper, however, the action was most prompt, intense, and permanent.

The author then shows, by experiments, that to obtain the proper effect of sulphur in the battery, it is necessary that the sulphur should be mixed with a solution of common salt, or with any other salt of soda, or probably with any alkaline base, it is also essential that the sulphur should come in contact with the copper. Experiments showed that this action of sulphur was subject to the fundamental law of the battery; for, taking into account the traces of sulphuretted hydrogen which are disengaged, and the very small quantity of sulphur which is combined with the copper, the conclusion was arrived at that the zinc dissolved, and the sulphur combined with the sodium, as protosulphide, in the exact ratio of their equivalents. Summing up his results, M. Matteucci arrives at the following conclusions:—

1. That finely-divided sulphur, placed in contact with the electro-negative metal of a battery composed of zinc, copper, and solution of common salt, notably augments the electro-motive force, the constancy and the duration of the battery. It is thus hoped that by the employment of sulphur a voltaic combination may be obtained having many advantages over those batteries which are ordinarily used in industry.

2. The sulphur, though insoluble, and uncombined, enters into combination with the sodium set free by the electric current.

The action exercised by the small quantity of sulphide of copper which is formed still remains to be explained. This action appears to be essential to the battery. Instead, however, of offering any theory on this subject, M. Matteucci has undertaken further experiments to elucidate this point.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE royal medals for the encouragement of geographical science and discovery, entrusted to the Royal Geographical Society, have this year been awarded to Captain Montgomerie, for his extensive and elaborate survey of North-western India and the Karakoran range; and to Mr. Samuel Baker, for his explorations in inner Africa. The medals will be delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Society on the 22nd inst. We understand that Sir Roderick Murchison has consented to serve another year as president.

SIR ROBERT REDE'S Lecture at Cambridge will this year be given by Professor Tyndall, on Tuesday next, at 2.30. The subject he has chosen is "Radiation."

WE understand that out of twenty-eight candidates the Council of the Zoological Society of London have selected Dr. James Murie, of the University of Glasgow, to fill the new office of Prosecutor to the Society. Dr. Murie was formerly Pathologist to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and acting Curator to the Pathological Museum of that Institution. He was appointed Assistant in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, where he assisted the late Professor Quekett in preparing

the catalogues of vertebrate and invertebrate animals. Dr. Murie left the College of Surgeons to join Consul Petherick's expedition to the White Nile, as naturalist, and made extensive collections in natural history.

THE *Bulletin* of the Paris Observatory announces the discovery of a new minor planet by M. Annibal de Gasparis, of Naples. The star selected for comparison was No. 13 of Weiss's Catalogue, in R. A. 13h. 2m. 5s. and $-6^{\circ} 52'$. On April 26th, 8h. 47m. 24s., Naples mean time, the R. A. of the planet referred to the star was $+4m. 14s.$, and the declination was $+1^{\circ} 20'$. The planet is of the tenth magnitude.

M. E. von Asten has communicated to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* a paper on Donati's comet. He has thoroughly investigated its orbit, and gives the following elements, which represent the path in a remarkably close manner:—

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega &= 165^{\circ} 19' 21'' 71 \pm 1'' 26 \\ i &= 116^{\circ} 58' 13'' 23 \pm 0,55 \\ \omega &= 129^{\circ} 6' 43'' 99 \pm 0,68 \\ \log p &= 0,0624999 \pm 15,0 \\ \log q &= 9,7622954 \pm 4,0 \\ T &= 1858 \text{ Sept. } 30,002396 \pm 9,51 \text{ Berlin} \\ e &= 0,99620173 \pm 88,0 \text{ [mean time]} \\ \log a &= 2,1827096 \pm 10069,0 \\ \text{Period} &= 1879,596 \pm 6,545 \text{ years.} \\ \log m &= 0,3166846 \end{aligned}$$

At a recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, a note by the Rev. J. M. Berkeley was read, calling attention to a very peculiar variety of Chinese primrose, among the magnificent collection exhibited by Messrs. Wimbanks, of Southampton. On close examination it is found to differ from all the monstrous forms described by Kramer, in his "Treatise on Monstrosities." Each stamen appears to be replaced by a more or less imperfect flower, of which some of the parts are like ordinary petals, others like complete florets, while others are merely hollow tubes or threads. He adds: "There is a point of some practical importance about the Chinese primrose on which it may be interesting to make one or two remarks. You all know that amongst primroses and their close allies there are two forms of flowers, which are known to florists as pin-eyed and thrum-eyed flowers. This is true of the Chinese primrose as well as of other species. Now, Mr. Darwin has shown that these flowers are of different degrees of fertility, according as they are impregnated with the pollen of similar or of different flowers. The thrum-eyed, unless artificially impregnated, are absolutely sterile, but if impregnated with the pollen of the thrum-eyed flowers, they yield a much larger quantity of seed than the pin-eyed flowers impregnated with the pollen of the thrum-eyed. Now, artificial impregnation with pin-eyed flowers is much the easier process, but the comparatively poor amount of seed is against it. It would be a very interesting matter to ascertain whether the best flowers, in a florist's point of view, come from the thrum-eyed or the pin-eyed. Judging from analogy, I should be inclined to think that the latter would be the case; but positive information is desirable, and it would be extremely welcome to obtain information on the point from some experienced quarter. The flowers are capable of impregnation with their own pollen, but in a very inferior degree."

DR. KUPFFER, Director of the Central Physical Observatory of Russia, has recently organized a system of telegraphic meteorological observations embracing the whole of the Russian Empire. The already existing meteorological stations at Revel, Nikolajew, Astrakhan, Archangel, and Nikolajewsk, on the Amoor, are to be made central stations, and furnished with a most complete set of instruments. Each of these places will have a certain number of subsidiary stations, from which it will receive by telegraph daily reports. Thus Revel will have Narva, Baltic Port (Baltiskoi), Pernau, Riga, and Libau; Wiborg, Abo, Uleaborg, and Tornea will belong to Helsingfors; Odessa, Sebastopol, Berdiansk, Taganrog, and Poti to Nikolajew; and Kola to Archangel. The central stations will transmit these reports to St. Petersburg, where, as in Paris, they will be published, accompanied by a daily meteorological map.

MR. W. WILLIS, of Birmingham, has recently laid before the Photographic Society an account of his aniline process of photographic printing. It consists of a new method of developing the pictures produced by Hunt's chromatype process, in which the paper is prepared with a solution of bichromate of potash and sulphate of

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copper. The difficulty of finding a suitable developer for the prints so obtained has hitherto prevented the use of this method. The employment of nitrate of silver or mercury, besides being attended with some practical inconveniences, produces pictures of a red colour, which, although suitable for the reproduction of the red chalk sketches of the old masters, is inadmissible for ordinary drawings. According to Mr. Willis's process, the paper is sensitized with a solution of bichromate of potash or ammonia, containing a small quantity of sulphuric or phosphoric acid, and when dry is exposed to light under a positive photograph or drawing. It is then placed over a solution of aniline in benzole, turpentine, or ether, preferably the former. The parts forming the picture—i. e., those not acted upon by the light—are developed of a mauve colour, which is very permanent, not being changed in tint by the application of acids or alkalis. The process has already been introduced in Birmingham for the multiplication of engineers' drawings, in cases where the number required is not sufficiently great to admit of lithography being used with advantage. The property possessed by bichromate of potash of forming a black compound with a solution of logwood, which has been used for the manufacture of cheap writing-ink, has also been applied by Mr. Fox, of Edinburgh, to the development of these chromatype pictures. Both these processes have been secured by patent.

A new solvent for the greater part of the aniline colours has been discovered by M. G. de Claubry, and communicated by him in a paper to the French Academy of Sciences. In place of alcohol and methylated spirit, which are high-priced or injurious to the workmen, M. de Claubry proposes to substitute a decoction of Panama bark (*Quillaria saponaria*) or of Egyptian soap-wort (*Gypsophila struthium*). Solutions of the colouring products can be easily obtained by pouring the boiling decoction upon the powder; after stirring and decanting the solution the operation must be repeated, if any part of the powder remain undissolved. It was found that the red colours dissolved most readily, and the blues less so. If, therefore, the colouring matter be purple, it is necessary at the end to mix the different solutions together in order to obtain a dye of the right tint.

"THE Correlation and Conservation of Forces: A Series of Expositions, by Prof. Grove, Prof. Helmholtz, Dr. Mayer, Dr. Faraday, Prof. Liebig, and Dr. Carpenter. With an Introduction, and Brief Biographical Notices of the Chief Promoters of the New Views," is the title of a book recently published in America, by Dr. E. L. Youmans. *Silliman's Journal* speaks highly of its value.

THE composition of ancient mortars has been examined by Dr. Wallace, and the results given in the *Chemical News*. The first specimen was from the great pyramid, and presented the appearance of a mixture of plaster, of a slight pinkish colour, with gypsum. It did not appear to contain any sand, the place of which was taken by coarsely-ground gypsum. Large quantities of this material and of alabaster are stated by Professor Smyth to be found in the vicinity. Analysis showed this mortar to contain 82 per cent. of hydrated sulphate of lime, and 9½ per cent. of carbonate of lime, besides smaller quantities of other bodies. A very ancient mortar, supposed to be the most ancient in existence, was obtained from the ruins of a temple near Larnaca, in Cyprus. The temple is now wholly below the ground, still the mortar was exceedingly hard and firm, and appeared to have been made of a mixture of burnt lime, sharp sand, and gravel. This mortar contained chiefly 26.4 per cent. of lime, 20.2 of carbonic acid, 16.2 of silica, and nearly 29 per cent. of smallstones, the lime being almost completely carbonated. Ancient Greek mortars showed somewhat the same composition. Ancient Roman mortars differed, however, being evidently prepared by mixing with burnt lime, not sand, but puzzeolana, or what is commonly, although improperly, called volcanic ash. From all his analyses Dr. Wallace deduces the following conclusions: That in the course of time the lime in plasters and mortars becomes completely carbonated; that where the mortar is freely exposed to the weather a certain proportion of alkaline or earthy silicate is formed, which probably confers hardness, as those mortars are the hardest which have been long below ground. It is known that those walls are strongest which are built during the rainy season, as then a small proportion of silicate of lime is formed, which not only makes the mortar itself harder, but causes it to unite more firmly with the stone. The mortar which

is probably the most ancient is by far the hardest, appearing like concrete. Its excellence seems to indicate that a large-grained sand is best for building purposes; and that even small gravel may, in certain cases, be used with advantage.

THE French Museum of Natural History has recently been fortunate enough to succeed in the reproduction of the Mexican Axolotls, which had never before been accomplished in Europe. The museum possesses in their reptile department six of these animals, five male and one female. The eggs, spawned in the usual manner, consisted, like those of all the Batracians, of a black vitelline sphere, placed in the centre of a transparent vitelline membrane, which was again surrounded by a larger albuminous envelope. Nearly all the eggs were fruitful, and the hatching took place from twenty-eight to thirty days after they were laid. Soon after the egg was quitted, an important change occurred; the buccal cleft opened itself, and the animal fed with avidity upon the animalcules floating in the water; in consequence of this, the stomach, which could hardly be recognized in the embryo, now became by degrees quite apparent. The foregoing facts are taken from a paper read at the last meeting of the Academy of Sciences by M. Duméril, who is still engaged in observing the further development of these animals.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

RECENT ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Villa Urbanne, Rhône.

THE observation of the zodiacal light at the epoch of the winter solstice, in latitude 45°, is not a very extraordinary fact; but as I do not know any notice of it, it may be useful to mention how it appears under circumstances when it can be well observed. On the 23rd December, 1864, we noticed here, at 6.45 P.M., that an intensely luminous portion of the zodiacal light plainly detached itself from the bottom of a gloomy sky. This could be traced to about the ρ , χ , and ψ of the constellation Pisces. The sky was but indifferently clear. At the time of making this observation I sought to determine the quantity of light which this portion emitted compared with that emitted by the stars. For this purpose I drew on paper several black lines between white ones of the same breadth, all equally distant. At seven in the evening, the zodiacal light appearing in all its intensity, I distinguished, with difficulty, the white lines, which were about a millimetre distant from the others. This limit of visibility was found even when precautions had been taken to obtain a great sensibility of the retina. On the night of the 29th and 30th December a diffused luminosity, which appeared to me to paint the sky, was certainly more intense than that seen on the 23rd of the same month. Indeed, on the 30th, at 10 P.M., it was possible to distinguish white lines separated only the third of a millimetre from black lines of equal dimensions; it was impossible to do so on December 23rd. I next examined how this diffused light distributed itself, and saw that the most luminous part was above a whitish phosphorescent veil, which covered the horizon with a light and luminous mist: the intensity of the luminosity was therefore not uniformly distributed. Employing a photometric apparatus, and designating by unity the luminous intensity of the sky in the neighbourhood of the horizon, at 25° high we had 1.53 for the expression of the intensity of the light of the sky at this point: overhead, the heavens being deprived of stars, we had 1.15 for the intensity of the light in the region of the zenith. Thus, proceeding from the horizon, the luminous intensity of the sky increased up to a height of about 25°, and then decreased as we rose from this point to the zenith. At least, so it was on the 30th of December, 1864.

If we admit that it may be light from stars which thus illuminates our atmosphere during serene nights, we do not explain why the stars should not be visible on a dark sky through a transparent atmosphere. The fine divisions of the instrument used, whilst they become visible when the atmosphere is less transparent, enable us to see a luminous veil interposing itself between the light of the stars and the observer. We know that all light-absorbing media radiate light; this medium, then, absorbing the light of the stars, radiates some light towards the earth. On the 30th December, from 10 to 11 P.M., and from midnight to 1 A.M., the phosphorescent veil was so intense, that the milky-way could hardly be seen.

During the night of December 30th I compared

the relative brilliancy of two stars (α) and (ϵ), marked on the map of M. Liapounon, in the great nebula of Orion. It is well-known that astronomers who have especially studied this nebula, have always indicated the star θ in Orion as the most brilliant of those within the nebulosity.

During several nights of this last autumn I remarked that the star (ϵ) shone more brilliantly than θ , Orion, which it is near. In order to determine this, I placed a bi-refracting prism in the interior of a prismatic telescope, one metre thirty centimetres focal length, in such a manner as to cause the double image of the two stars to overlap each other. Successively alternating the ordinary with the extraordinary image of one of these stars, a series of comparisons were obtained, which plainly showed that (ϵ) is more brilliant than (α) or θ , Orion. As M. Otto Struve has stated that there exists in this nebula a series of variable stars of feeble magnitude, I mention the result of the preceding comparison as one from which we should safely conclude that θ , Orion, was in another epoch of superior brilliancy to that of (ϵ), which is marked in all charts as being of the fifth magnitude. Indeed, another similar measure definitively established the fact that one of the two stars is variable. We well know what interest attaches itself to those variable stars of large magnitude which are surrounded by the diffused light of nebulous matter.

In the foregoing observations it was necessary to superpose different regions of the nebula in order to eliminate the effects of contrast, or of superposition of the luminous matter. It is almost needless to say, that the intensity of the diffused light of the most brilliant regions of the nebula did not attain to a hundredth part of the brilliancy of θ , Orion, whilst the brilliancy of (ϵ) surpassed this last, by a quantity far greater than the value of the intensity of the light emitted by the nebula.

CHACORNAC.

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—April 24.—In astronomy, M. Faye communicated a note "Upon Dr. Spörer's Works on the Sun," which author he had omitted to notice in his last communication upon the constitution of the sun. A letter was read from M. Charles Dufour, "Upon the Obscurements of the Sun." Apropos of M. Faye's former communication, M. Dufour has found that the sudden disappearance of the sun on the morning of May 12th, 1706, which has been cited as a proof of the interposition of shooting stars, was really due to an eclipse of the sun. M. Dufour quotes from an old German chronicle, which gives a detailed account of this eclipse. A note was sent by M. de la Noë "Upon a Fire-ball observed at Metz on April 20th, 1865." The author was able to make several observations upon this bolide, which, with calculations deduced therefrom, he gives in a table. The length of the arc traversed by the fire-ball was 20° 50', and its angular velocity 10° 25' per second; the azimuth at its appearance being 299° 30', and at its disappearance 310° 45'.

The mathematical papers were "Upon a Resolution of the General Equation of the Fourth Degree," second memoir, by M. Vêriot. "Upon the Numerical Resolution of Equations of the Fifth Degree, and others," by M. H. Montucci. This paper completes the resolution commenced by the author in a previous memoir. He demonstrates that the cubo-cycloid always gives a real root of every three-term equation of any degree whatsoever. As an example of this fact, he calculates two real roots of an equation of the twentieth degree. "Upon the Theory of Surfaces," by M. E. Lamarle.

Among the chemical papers we notice an important memoir by M. E. Debray "Upon the Chlorides of Tungsten." The author details experiments made to determine the density of the vapours of these bodies, and shows that some discrepancies exist between the theoretical and experimental results. To this paper M. H. Saint-Claire Deville added a note. Dr. Blondlot presented a memoir "Upon Researches on Black Phosphorous," in which he gives the best method of preparing this substance, and states that the black phosphorous ought not to be regarded as an anomalous variety, but as the true type. Two notes, received by M. Pasteur from two French chemists, were presented by him. Both were upon the cause of the sudden crystallization of supersaturated saline solutions. M.

Persoz continued his memoir "Upon the Molecular State of Bodies." Messrs. Frankland and Duppa sent a paper, which was presented by M. Dumas, "On Synthetical Researches upon the Ethers." MM. Millon and Commaille a note "Upon the Casein of Milk and its Affinities." "Goëmine, a Neutral Body Extracted from Goëmon," formed the subject of a memoir by M. Blondeau. MM. Sicard and Schoras sent a paper "Upon the Poisonous Mushrooms."

Only two physiological papers were presented—one by M. Lacaze-Duthiers, "On the Sexes of the *Alcyonaria*;" and the other by M. Ollier, which we notice in our "Scientific Notes." The remaining papers were: "Observations upon the laticiferous vessels of the *Convolvulaceæ*." The results at which the author arrives are—that these vessels do not take their origin from intercellular passages; that they are produced by fusion of the cells in a series; and that these laticiferous vessels are quite distinct from fibres of wood, an opinion which the author has long held for the like vessels in plants belonging to other families. A memoir by M. Segnier, "Upon the Improvement of Fire-arms," we shall notice elsewhere. A letter from M. Dupont to M. de Quatrefages was read "Upon the Quarternary Strata of Belgium."

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—*Annual Meeting*, May 1.—Mr. W. Pole, F.R.S., Treas. and V.P., in the chair. The annual report of the Committee of Visitors for the year 1864 was read and adopted. The books and pamphlets presented in 1864 amounted to 115 volumes, making, with those purchased by the managers and patrons, a total of 436 volumes added to the library in the year. Fifty-one new members were elected in 1864. Sixty-three lectures and nineteen evening discourses were delivered during the year 1864. Thanks were voted to the Treasurer and Secretary, to the Committee of Managers and Visitors, to Professor Faraday, and to the other professors, for their services to the Institution during the past year. The following gentlemen were unanimously elected as officers for the ensuing year: *President*—Sir Henry Holland, Bart.; M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S. *Treasurer*—Mr. William Spottiswoode, F.R.S. *Secretary*—Dr. H. Bence Jones, F.R.S. *Managers*—Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.; Mr. G. Busk, F.R.S.; Mr. W. De la Rue, Ph.D., F.R.S.; Sir G. Everest, C.B., F.R.S.; Captain D. Galton, F.R.S.; Mr. J. P. Gassiot, F.R.S.; Mr. J. H. Gladstone, F.R.S.; Mr. Caesar H. Hawkins, F.R.S.; Sir Roderick I. Murchison, K.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S.; The Earl Percy, M.P.; Mr. W. Pole, F.R.S.; Mr. Lewis Powell, F.S.A.; Mr. R. P. Roupell, Q.C.; Mr. J. W. Thrupp; The Lord Wensleydale. *Visitors*—The Earl of Rosse, F.R.S., Chanc. Univ. Dublin; and Messrs. J. D. Allcroft, J. C. Burgoyne, J. P. Gassiot, jun., C. D. Griffith, M.P., H. H. Harwood, T. W. Helps, T. H. Hills, C. Lyall, H. Mackenzie, E. Packe, T. H. Tuke, M.D., H. Twining, H. Vaughan, and H. Wedgwood.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—April 26.—Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair.

Messrs. J. W. Conrad Cox, 4, Grove-hill, Woodford, N.E., and 32, Westbourne-place, Eaton-square, W.; Mr. Henry K. Jordan, Tenby House, Cotham, Bristol; and Mr. Thomas J. Sells, of Guildford, Surrey, were elected fellows. The following communications were read: 1. "On the Character of the Cephalopodous Fauna of the South Indian Cretaceous Rocks." By Dr. F. Stoliczka. Communicated by the Assistant-Secretary. In this paper the author gave a summary of the more important facts brought to light by the examination of the Cretaceous Cephalopoda of Southern India, which was begun by Mr. H. F. Blanford, and continued by himself, giving, first of all, a brief notice of what had been done previously by other observers, and a sketch of Mr. Blanford's subdivision of the strata into the Ootatoor (or Lower), the Trichinopoly (or Middle), and the Arrialloor (or Upper) groups. All the genera characteristic of European Cretaceous fauna were stated to be well represented, the whole assemblage having a Middle Cretaceous aspect. The number of species of the different genera occurring in each of the three subdivisions was then given, as also the distribution of the groups of the genus *Ammonites*, the most striking and abnormal feature being the intimate association of three species of that genus, belonging to the Triassic group "*Globosus*," with true Cretaceous fossils. Dr. Stoliczka

then discussed the relation of this Indian fauna to those of the European Cretaceous rocks, and illustrated his remarks by a table showing the geological range in India and in Europe of the species that are common to both areas. He came to the conclusion that for the present the lowest of Mr. Blanford's sub-divisions (the Ootatoor group) may be considered to be of the age of the European Gault; while the uppermost (the Arrialloor group) does not seem to correspond to a higher division than D'Orbigny's Sénonien.

2. "On the Growth of Flos Ferri, or Coralloidal Aragonite." By Mr. W. Wallace, Communicated by Mr. W. W. Smyth, F.R.S., Sec. G.S. The author first described the physical features of the Meldon Mountains, in Westmoreland, and endeavoured to show that they bore certain relations to the geological structure of the country, and that the number and size of the joints varied with the elevation of the rocks, and their position in relation to the valleys. After the formation of the joints, the minerals occurring in the veins in their neighbourhood were stated to be acted upon by decomposing agents, and it was therefore inferred that the amount of decomposition in veins and in rocks is proportional to the amount of their elevation above the sea. Mr. Wallace then stated that Aragonite is produced only after the strata are traversed by joints, and that the branched Aragonite very rarely occurs, being found only in caverns and old workings. Two of these caverns have come under his notice, and were described in detail; one of them is in the north vein of the Silver Band Mine, and the other near one of the principal veins of the Dufton Fell Mine. Finally he discussed the causes and conditions necessary to the formation of this Coralloidal Aragonite, and came to the conclusion that the theory of a circulation, through the pores of the spar, of fluids holding its component parts in solution, is the only one that harmonizes with the varied phenomena observed in the two caverns he had described.

3. "Notes on Presenting some Rhomboidal Specimens of Ironstone," &c. By Sir J. F. W. Herschel, Bart., K.C.H., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. With a Note by Captain T. Longworth Dames. Communicated by Sir C. Lyell, Bart., F.R.S., F.G.S. Most of these specimens came from a quarry at Clannullen, near Edenderry, King's County, and the remainder from the Collingwood quarry, in the Weald of Kent. The Irish specimens are siliceous, containing some oxide of iron and a little manganese, and are homogeneous throughout. They all agree in the sharpness of definition and the exact parallelism and evenness of the flat surfaces; but, like those from the Weald, they are not constant in form or size, and sometimes are very irregular in angle and in the parallelism of opposite sides. The Wealden specimens, however, are all closed boxes, each containing a rhomboid of hardened sandstone, the outer case being highly ferruginous—in fact, the "Ironstone of the Weald." Sir John Herschel endeavoured to account for the formation of the boxes, and Captain Dames added a note stating the circumstances under which the Irish specimens occur.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—April 29.—*Anniversary Meeting*.—The Right Hon. Sir George Clerk, Bart., President, in the chair.

The usual preliminaries having been transacted, the report of the auditors was read and adopted by the meeting. The report of the council was then read by Dr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., the secretary of the Society. It stated that the number of fellows, fellows-elect, and annual subscribers of the Society on that day, amounted to 1,955, showing an increase of 201 members since the last anniversary. During the year 1864 no less than 264 new fellows and annual subscribers had been elected, a greater number than had joined the Society in any one single year for the previous twenty-eight years.

Seventeen corresponding members and two foreign members had also been elected since the previous anniversary.

The report then proceeded to state that the council had again the pleasure of reporting a considerable increase in the income of the Society. The income of the year 1863 had amounted to 20,284l. 12s. 11d., a sum unexampled except in the two Exhibition years; but the income of the past year had exceeded that sum by 1,429l., the total receipts for 1864 having amounted to 21,713l. 13s. 10d. This increase was due to the augmentation of nearly all the principal sources of receipt, amongst which that of admission to the gardens and annual subscriptions (resulting from the increased number of members) were the most noticeable.

The number of visitors to the Society's gardens had also largely increased during the year 1864, the entrances having amounted to no less than 507,169, a number which placed the year 1864 as exhibiting a more favourable aspect, in this point of view, than any of the preceding years except the two Exhibition years.

After adding to the income of 1864 the sum of 2,043l. 10s. 6d., being the balance carried forward from the previous year, and the sum of 2,677l. 10s., being the proceeds arising from the sale of 3,000l. Reduced 3 per Cents., there remained a total sum of 26,434l. 14s. 4d. available for the expenditure of the year 1864.

The ordinary expenditure of the Society paid during the year 1864, under which head had been placed every item necessary to keep the Society's establishment in a perfect state of efficiency, had been 17,207l. 10s. 7d. The extraordinary expenditure paid during the same period had amounted to 7,681l. 12s. 9d., making a total expenditure of 24,889l. 3s. 4d., and leaving a balance in the banker's hands, at the end of the year, of 1,544l. 9s. 6d. The report then stated that the reserve fund of the Society invested in Three per Cents. Reduced amounted to 10,000l., and that while the council had no intention of diminishing this reserve fund, they did not think it necessary or even desirable to increase it beyond that amount; that the cash assets of the Society, on the 31st of December, 1864, had amounted to 10,900l. 12s. 4d., and that liabilities at the same period had been estimated at 3,434l. 13s. 7d., leaving a balance in favour of the Society of 8,871l. 16s. 6d.; that the sum of 403l. 8s. had been devoted to expenses connected with the Society's library during the past year.

The council had resolved on fitting up the upper portion of the Old Museum building in the Society's gardens as a gallery for the exhibition of the Society's collection of water-colour drawings by Mr. J. Wolf, during the summer months of the present year.

The report then proceeded to speak of the Society's gardens in the Regent's-park, and stated, in reference to them, that the new entrance lodges, aviary, and monkey-house, concerning which full details and explanations had been offered to the Society in the last annual report, had been all completed and brought into perfect order during the course of last year. That as regards the latter building, the new monkey-house, which was only brought into full working order during the latter part of last summer, the council could not refrain from congratulating the Society upon the very important amelioration that had been thus effected in what had been heretofore one of the most defective parts of their garden establishment. That this building had not only proved most attractive to the public, but that also as regards the health and welfare of the animals to the use of which it was devoted there could be no question that it had likewise proved an entire success. In striking contrast to the constant mortality that had prevailed in the old monkey-house, the deaths among the quadrumana during the late long and severe winter had been very few, and the greater number of them had remained in an excellent state of health. The cost of the erection of the new monkey-house had been 3,382l. 18s. 3d., and a further sum of 1,459l. 7s. 3d. had been spent in fittings and works connected with it.

The most important event connected with the Society's menagerie that had occurred since the last anniversary had been the successful result of Mr. Thompson's mission to India. Several of the Society's corresponding members in India having announced that they had collections waiting for transmission to the Society (amongst which were a pair of young rhinoceroses and other valuable animals), the Council had determined on sending out to Calcutta, to receive and bring back those proffered donations, Mr. James Thompson, the Society's head-keeper, who had previously made the same journey with such signal success on the occasion of the introduction of the Himalayan pheasants in 1858.

Mr. Thompson arrived in the Thames on July 28, 1864, bringing with him a very fine series of animals, amongst which might be specified two rhinoceroses, one rhinoceros hornbill, two concave hornbills, three green-necked peafowl, three lined pheasants, two rufous-tailed pheasants, and other valuable animals. The total cost of Mr. Thompson's expedition had amounted to 808l., whilst the lowest estimate that could be put upon the value of the collection thus acquired amounted to 1,516l.

The animals exhibited for the first time during the year 1864 comprised eight mammals, twenty-three birds, two reptiles,

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and two fishes. Amongst these particular notice was directed to the orange-quilled porcupine (*Hystrix malabarica*), a new and very interesting addition to this group (for which the Society were indebted to their corresponding member, his Excellency Sir William Denison, Governor of Madras), and to the *Didunculus strigirostris*, or tooth-billed pigeon of the Samoan Islands in the Pacific, perhaps the rarest specimen ever exhibited alive in the Society's menagerie, as it had been supposed until recently to be quite extinct. For the latter the Society were indebted to their indefatigable correspondent, Dr. George Bennett, of Sydney, who had made so many valuable donations to the menagerie.

The Report then gave a list of animals which had bred in the gardens of the Zoological Society between the 1st of January, 1864, and the 1st of January, 1865, amongst which were twenty-two species of mammals, twenty species of birds, one reptile, and three fishes; and also an alphabetically-arranged list of donors and of their several donations to the menagerie during the year 1864. The Council anticipate that the yearly income of the Society is likely to reach the amount of 20,000*l.* Allowing 17,000*l.* for the ordinary expenses of the present large establishment, a surplus of 3,000*l.* remained which might be devoted to extraordinary works, without intrenching on the Society's reserve fund. At the same time, the roll of the members of the Society seemed likely to attain a considerable increase, showing that the objects of the Society and the state of its affairs were generally approved of, while the numerous visitors to the gardens, particularly on Mondays and holidays, showed the interest taken in the Society's collection by the public at large.

The Council's report having been received and adopted, the meeting proceeded to elect the new members of the Council for the year. The ballot having been taken, the following five fellows of the Society were elected into the Council: the Right Hon. Viscount Bury, M.P., Mr. Charles Buxton, M.P., Mr. J. Travers Smith, Mr. R. H. Vyvyan, and Mr. G. R. Waterhouse. The ballot for the officers resulted in the election of the Right Hon. Sir George Clerk, Bart., as president, Dr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., &c., as secretary, and Mr. Drummond as treasurer, for the ensuing year.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—April 24.—Sir R. I. Murchison, President, in the chair.

Previous to the reading of the papers announced for the evening, the President read portions of a despatch from Colonel Lewis Pelly, Her Majesty's Resident at the Persian Gulf (communicated by the Bombay Government to the Society), on the subject of the exploration of inner Arabia. The writer had learnt from the "Proceedings" of the Royal Geographical Society, issued in April, 1864, that it was a desideratum to determine with scientific accuracy the positions of the Wahabite capital and some other points of interest in the interior, and had determined, notwithstanding the accounts of the difficulties and dangers of such a journey, to lead at once a party of competent officers and men of science into the country. He was unwilling that it should be supposed that insuperable difficulties existed in the way of penetrating any Asiatic territory adjacent to his jurisdiction. He was February 14 on his march. His plan was to land at 'Kwait, and from that point to proceed to the capital, returning to the Persian Gulf by another route. The party consisted, besides himself, of Lieutenant Dawes (who carried with him all the necessary instruments) and Dr. Colville, as botanist and mineralogist.

Sir Henry Rawlinson said the success of an expedition of this kind depended mainly on the qualifications of the officer who undertook it, and Colonel Pelly was well warranted in speaking with the confidence which appeared in this despatch. He had given proofs of his courage and tact by travelling on horseback in 1861, in his uniform as a British officer, through the whole of the Affghan country, from Teheran to Calcutta, one of the most adventurous journeys which had been performed in that region. We should have to wait some months before the results of the Arabian expedition could be known, but it was possible they might arrive before the conclusion of the present session of the society.

The first paper was "On the Bayanos River, Isthmus of Panama," by Mr. Laurence Oliphant. This was a short narrative of a journey which the writer had made from Panama to the Chepo, or Bayanos River, which enters the Pacific about thirty miles to the westward of the former place. Between this point and the Gulf of St. Blas the

Atlantic and the Pacific approach nearer to each other than they do in any other part, and the object of the paper was to call attention to the fact that, during the many surveys which had been undertaken with a view to discern the most practical line for a ship canal, this part had been neglected. The neck of land which divides the Atlantic from that point on the Bayanos River to which the tide of the Pacific extends, is only fifteen miles across, and however incredible it might seem, the writer had not been able to learn that this short distance had ever been crossed, much less explored, by a white man. In 1837 Mr. Wheelwright attempted, but was driven back by the Indians, and some years later Mr. Evan Hopkins started with a view of exploring this route, but was compelled to abandon it for the same reason. The object of the writer in his visit was simply a *reconnaissance*, the persons in whose company he made the trip having no idea of exploration, but merely visiting the little settlement of Chepo, where they had bought an estate. He was unable to reach so far as Terabla, where the influence of the Pacific tide ends, and where an expedition to cross to the Atlantic would have to start from; but he saw from Chepo a very remarkable depression in the mountain chain, about ten miles distant. He was repeatedly assured both at Panama and at Chepo that the Darien Indians were in the habit of hauling their canoes on wooden slides across the Cordillera, from the Mandinga river, and launching them in the Bayanos. Surely it was a discredit to the civilization of the nineteenth century that the Indians should be said to pass with boats from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that we should never have had the curiosity to verify this fact or explore the only section of the Isthmus of which it could be stated with any appearance of truth.

A second paper was "On a Journey from Chimborazo to Bogota Across the Central Andes," by Mr. Robert Cross. This was a narrative of a journey performed by the writer whilst employed by the India-office in collecting seeds of the Pitayo cinchona-tree for planting in India. This valuable species of cinchona appeared to be now reduced to a few specimens growing near Popayan, from which the writer succeeded in obtaining a good supply of seeds. His journey from the Pitayo forests to the valley of the Magdalena was over the high and bleak plateau of Guanacas, where his mules had a narrow escape from perishing of cold, and where he saw the road strewn with skeletons of men and animals.

General Mosquera, Minister of the United States of Columbia to Great Britain, at the invitation of the President, addressed a few remarks to the meeting in English, in which he described the efforts which the Government of his native country were making to open a road across the Cordillera at the point mentioned in Mr. Oliphant's paper. This was one out of many enterprises which were now being pushed forward with a view to increase the commerce between New Granada and Great Britain in the abundant produce of that part of Tropical America.

Mr. Evan Hopkins, C.E., who had been employed by General Mosquera to survey various parts of New Granada, confirmed the statements of Mr. Oliphant with regard to the geography of the Isthmus. As to the vast region which Mr. Cross had given them an account of, the difficulties of travelling described by him were due to the want of proper precautions. He had himself crossed all the ranges of the Cordillera five times, without suffering any great privation, and a more magnificent region for beauty and fertility of soil he had never seen.

Mr. Gerstenberg reviewed the capabilities of the various routes which had been proposed for a ship canal, and gave his reasons for preferring that which had been first suggested by Humboldt, namely, between the Gulf of St. Miguel and Caledonia Bay, which was the only line that presented the indispensable requirement of good harbours at each end.

Mr. Oliphant differed from Mr. Gerstenberg in supposing that a good harbour at each end was of more importance than a depression in the intervening ridge. Mr. Crawford and Dr. Hodgkin also took part in the discussion, and the President, in summing up, said the question of crossing the Isthmus of Panama had been productive, in years past, of frequent and lively discussions in the Society; but he agreed with Mr. Oliphant, that it would be a disgrace to British geographers if they did not complete the examination of this region. This was one of the great desiderata which now remained, and he hoped General Mosquera would use his influence to induce his countrymen to aid us in the exploration.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.—May 1.—The Right Hon. Viscount Strangford, V.P., in the chair. The paper read was the first part of "Outlines of a Grammar of the Malagasy Language," by Dr. H. N. van der Tunk. Taking his standing point upon the fact, long since incontrovertibly established by Marsden and W. von Humboldt, and maintained by the generality of Orientalists, that the Malagasy belongs to the great western branch of the stock of languages which have been denominated Malayo-Polynesian, the author pointed out by numerous examples the great analogy this language bears to the Toba dialect of the Batak in pronunciation, and the most salient points in its grammatical structure by which its affinity to the Javanese, Batak, Malay, Dayak, and other Malayan tongues is proved. At the conclusion of his introductory remarks the writer stated that there is only one language spoken in the island, with some varieties of dialect, which, however, are not so considerable as to prevent people residing in different parts from understanding one another. This statement was corroborated by Dr. Gunst, a Dutch physician, lately arrived from Madagascar, who has travelled over the whole of that island.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—April 26.—Dr. James Copland, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair.

The Rev. W. Sparrow Simpson, of St. Matthew's Rectory, Friday-street, was elected an associate.

Mr. J. T. Irvine presented an etching made by him of illustrations of Arcadian antiquities in the museum of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.—Lord Boston exhibited an intaglio in calcedony, a Gnostic amulet, with intaglio on each side of yellow jasper, and a minutely-carved cherry stone of a head lying in a charger. It is of fine execution, and of the 16th century.—Mr. Syer Cuming alluded to various cherry, plum, and peach-stone carvings, forming rosaries, which were in the Duchess of Portland's museum, and some of which had been stated to have been executed by Benvenuto Cellini.—Lord Boston also exhibited a disc of glass, enclosing a stag pursued by a spotted dog, in gold leaf, and backed with ruby-coloured glass. It is of German workmanship, and belongs to the 17th century.—The Rev. W. Simpson exhibited a horizontal quadrant dial of brass, of the close of the 17th century, inscribed on the reverse face, "Trin. Coll. Cant. Ex. Dono. Tho. Scattergood Arne." It was purchased at a marine-store shop in the country, and lately presented to the exhibitor.—Mr. Greenshields exhibited a Florentine poinard of the 15th century, the gilt hilt of which represented a gigantic crane standing on a human skull, across the foot of which is a broad ribbon, and on one side an hour-glass, on the other a bunch of hemlock, the three objects forming the cross-guard. It was contained in a richly silver-gilt sheath, with gorgeous head, a serpent imbibing poison from a chalice, &c.—Mr. Halliwell, F.R.S., exhibited a ponderous halbert of the time of Elizabeth, the metal part weighing 3 lbs. 4½ ozs.—Mr. Syer Cuming and Mr. Clarence Hopper exhibited gourds, supposed to have formed pilgrim's bottles.—Mr. Augustus Goldsmid, F.S.A., read a paper on, and exhibited rubbings of, brasses in Tideswell Church, Derbyshire, which gave rise to a prolonged discussion by the author of the paper, Mr. Cuming, the Rev. W. Simpson, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Blashill, and others. The execution of the brasses was assigned to the middle of the 16th century.

The meeting was adjourned to the 10th of May, at half-past four P.M., for the election of the officers and council for the ensuing year, statement of accounts, &c.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, MAY 8.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 2.—Albemarle Street. General Monthly Meeting.

GEOGRAPHICAL, at 8.30.—15 Whitehall Place. Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B., President, in the chair. 1. "Physical Geography of the Seas between England and India:" Captain Tonnies. 2. "Roouma River, East Africa:" Dr. Kirk. 3. "Recent Travels in Unexplored Parts of Madagascar:" Dr. Gunst.

TUESDAY, MAY 9.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. "On Organic Chemistry:" Professor Frankland.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN, at 7.30.—22 Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square. "On the Date of the Book of Revelations:" Mr. Sharp.

ETHNOLOGICAL, at 8.—4 St. Martin's Place. 1. "On Language in Relation to Ethnology:" Rev. F. W. Farrar. 2. "On the Indians of South America:" Sir Woodbine Parish.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. "On Some of the Most Important Chemical Discoveries made within the last Two Years:" Dr. F. C. Calvert. Cantor Lectures.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—25 Great George Street, Westminster. Renewed Discussion on "Uniform Stress in Girder Work," and

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"On the Maintenance of Railway Rolling Stock:" Mr. G. Fletcher.

MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL, at 8.30.—53 Berners Street, Oxford Street.

ZOOLOGICAL, at 8.30.—11 Hanover Square. 1. "On the Development of the Sternal Callosities in Cyclanostous and Allied Genera:" Dr. Gray. 2. "On a Supposed New Zebra from South Africa:" Mr. Baines.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10.

LITERARY FUND, at 3.—4 Adelphi Terrace, Adelphi.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, at 4.30.—32 Sackville Street. Annual General Meeting for Election of Officers, Council, &c. Obituary Notices of Members Deceased during 1864.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. "On the Art of Laying Submarine Cables from Ships:" Captain Jasper Selwyn, R.N.

MICROSCOPICAL, at 8.—King's College, Strand.

GEOLOGICAL, at 8.—Somerset House. 1. "On the Azoic and Palaeozoic Rocks of Southern New Brunswick:" Mr. G. F. Matthew. Communicated by Dr. J. W. Dawson, F.R.S. 2. "Results of Geological Observations in Baden and Franconia:" Dr. F. Sandberger. Communicated by the President. 3. "On the Changes Rendered Necessary in the Geological Map of South Africa:" Mr. R. N. Rubidge.

GRAPHIC, at 8.—Flaxman Hall, University College.

THURSDAY, MAY 11.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. "On Organic Chemistry:" Professor Frankland.

ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB, at 6.—St. James's Hotel.

ANTIQUARIES, at 8.—Somerset House.

ROYAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House.

FRIDAY, MAY 12.

ASTRONOMICAL, at 8.—Somerset House.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On Magenta and Other Dyes:" Mr. F. Field, F.R.S.

SATURDAY, MAY 13.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Albemarle Street. "On the Physical Accompaniments of Mind:" Professor Bain.

ROYAL BOTANIC, at 3.45.—Inner Circle, Regent's Park.

ART.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE opening of this Exhibition is looked for with an interest only second to that which is always awakened by the more important display of the Royal Academy. The Society stands in a similar relation to our school of water-colour painting as that which the Royal Academy bears to the great body of English painters. They are the *élite* of the school, and admission to their ranks is coveted as a badge of the highest distinction. We have consistently deprecated the formation of small exclusive societies in art, as a deviation from the liberal rule that would include all artists of ability, whatever be the nature of their practice, in a recognized national body. Neither the Royal Academy nor the Society of Water-Colour Painters are in any sense representative bodies. They are, rather, exclusive clubs, which have led to the establishment of half-a-dozen similar associations among the numerous unrepresented members of the profession. The formation of the Institute of Water-Colour Painters was consequent upon the determination of the old Society not to increase the number of its members. Liberal at first, it soon grew to be as exclusive as the elder institution; and now we have a third and, we are happy to say, an open Exhibition of the works of unrepresented water-colour painters, at the Dudley Gallery in Piccadilly. The best that can be said for a state of things which we hold to be deplorable in many respects is, that it is characteristic of our national habits, that we work better under several directions than under one, and that the idea of a State recognition, like that which is now enjoyed only by the members of the Royal Academy, would be found impracticable, if extended so as to embrace a national society composed of the most excellent representatives of every branch of the craft. The question is, however, likely to be largely discussed by the heads of the profession themselves; in the meantime we must deal with the various sectional Exhibitions in the best way that we can.

The small annual Exhibition in Pall Mall East is generally the most delightful of the season. We are not wearied by the quantity, and we are always gratified by the quality of the works displayed; and if we thought merely of the convenience and pleasure of the visitors, we should have no reason to complain of its exclusive character. The advantage of an open Exhibition should not, however, be lost sight of. The opportunity of comparing his work with that of his superiors is of immense importance to the student, and of great value to the intelligent spectator. The juxtaposition of works of promise and excellent performance is the great source of interest in the Exhibitions of the Royal Academy. The Water-Colour Societies have not this attraction, though it must be confessed that the elder society provides us with so high a level of performance that any objection we may take to what may almost be called a monotony of excellence in their works is almost banished from our minds.

The present Exhibition is, perhaps, hardly up to the average of the last few years. The drawings of John Gilbert, usually among the most effective in the gallery, are this year singularly unattractive. George Fridd only contributes four small drawings—a limitation which, in the case of so excellent a landscape painter, is much felt by all lovers of good art. F. W. Burton is only worthily represented by one exquisite drawing, and Carl Haag has only a small study of "Baalbec," besides his somewhat colourless picture of Her Majesty and her Suite fording Poll Tairbh. On the other hand, we have Holland in great force; we note a marked advance in the drawings of Davidson, Boyce, and Alfred Hunt; we have at least two successful drawings by Alfred Fridd; and we have reason to hail with pleasure the election of the new associates, Messrs. J. D. Watson and F. Shields.

The pleasant aspect of the room always prepares us for the enjoyment of the Exhibition in detail. We are not oppressed, as in the great Exhibitions of Oil Pictures, by the towering weight of bad art above the line. There are literally no bad places in the room; every work may be seen comfortably and well.

One of the first things we notice on entering the room is a prettily painted figure by Oakley, who we are pleased to see is well represented this year by numerous clever sketches, which are distinguished by that nice feeling and taste for which he has been celebrated. Next we see Davidson's fine landscape of "Dolwydellan Valley," thoroughly characteristic of North Wales. We have already remarked on the advance made by this conscientious painter, and for more particular evidence of it we refer our readers to "The Mountain Road" (30), to the capital study of weather called "A Showery Day in North Wales" (149), and to an example which shows his power over the home scenery of Surrey, "At Red Hill, Reigate" (238). Jenkins, we are glad to see, still perseveres with landscape painting, and a small drawing, called "Welsh Weather" (7), shows us how a timely recurrence to nature has served to strengthen and invigorate a constitutional tendency to be satisfied with conventional types, whether in figures or in landscape.

Carl Haag's large drawing of the Royal Party returning from Blair Atholl to Balmoral appears to have been a work of labour rather than of love. There seems to be something in the nature of Court pictures that hampers the power of the artist, unless, indeed, he possesses the genius and independence of a Velasquez or a Rubens; yet, in itself, the subject is not a bad one, far better, at all events, than those which are illustrations of mere Court ceremonials. The painter has made much of a fine background, though the general tone of colour is unnecessarily brown; but we cannot help wishing that the party were not quite so tidy and unsplashed, and the horses not quite so well-behaved. The forms of etiquette are but little in unison with the picturesque, and the art of painting is, perhaps, incapable of reproducing the loyal interest which the real scene would have inspired. The picture is, nevertheless, full of ability, and worthy of attentive consideration.

Pleasant spaces of light everywhere mark the presence of Holland's delightful memories of Venice. We call them memories, not because they are not facts, but because the Venetian views are the result of that highest faculty of the mind which retains, with ease, the impressions of beauty it received in the far-away past. Holland alone, of all painters, reproduces for us the atmosphere and living aspect under all its changeable conditions of the glorious city enthroned upon the waters of the Adriatic. The spaciousness represented in the drawing of "The Riva degli Schiavoni" (108), is to be noted as something altogether unusual in Venetian subjects. Turner sacrificed all literal truth to compass it; and though it may be heresy to say so, we dare affirm that local and atmospheric truth are more truly balanced in Holland's best Venetian drawings than they are in the dream-like views of the fair and yet most substantial city which we can call to mind by Turner. Look at the exquisite drawing called "Sunshine" (248), which must be the result of intense love and right appreciation of the salient characteristics of the place. Notice especially the drawing of the gondola in any of the drawings now exhibited (they are all this year of Venice), and see how he has succeeded in giving us not merely the form, but also the impression of its graceful motion. We must not forget, however, that Holland is a painter of large experience, extend-

ing over many years of practice, and that work of this kind is not to be done by mere feeling, or his wonderful facility to be reached in a day.

The only drawings in the gallery which have the same quality of light, are the figure subjects of Alfred Fridd, which are distinguished by very high qualities, and though unequal, never descend to commonplace art. A study of a young fisher-boy seated on a rock near the margin of the sea, called "One of England's Naval Reserve" (10), and a delightful picture of two lads on the chalk cliffs which command a view of the opposite coast of France, called "The Allies" (162), are unexceptionably good. We do not feel the same pleasure in looking at the other drawings, "Arabs of the Common" (82), a group of ragged children rather posed for effect, and somewhat confused in arrangement, and an Italian girl "Under the Vines of Lorranto" (288), which is over refined, and consequently insipid. George Fridd, the landscape painter, is perhaps not less sensitive to beauty than his less prolific and more fastidious brother, but he is more vigorous, balanced, and complete.

F. W. Burton has not had a happy subject in the large head, called "La Marchesa" (27), but he has produced a truly exquisite water-colour drawing of a child holding a spray of clematis (274). In expression as well as in charm of colour little remains to be desired. Might not portrait painters take a lesson from this work, and try to elevate their portraits by a higher pictorial treatment, as Mr. Burton has done in this study of a child?

Mr. E. B. Jones has some fine studies of colour. The drawing called "Astrologia" (18) is probably very distasteful to commonplace observers, but to most painters it will recommend itself to attentive consideration, as a work that presents to the eye fine harmony of colour. "Green Summer" (105) is only to be noted for the quality of colour, and the same may be said of some of the other drawings; but "A Head" (160) is fine in expression, and in every way a covetable possession.

We have already said that John Gilbert has not put forth his strength. There is little power about "Cromwell in Battle" (152), almost the only vigorous passage being that of the artillerymen with the gun in the centre of the line; neither is the scene from Gil Blas (267) equal to what we have seen of this accomplished artist's power of illustration.

Mr. Topham has produced a larger drawing than we have had from his easel for many years, the subject being "An Irish Gathering in Conemara" (126). It is one of the most able works of his hand.

Birket Foster is well represented. A strong tendency to mannerism is painfully evident, through the smartness and facility of his pencil. All is not finish that passes for it: for example, the spots on the girl's pinafore (why does this artist dot over his drawings with white spots?) in "The Swing" (314) are scattered over the folds like snow flakes, without any reference to perspective. This is absolutely wrong, and not a small matter where a great impression, at least, of finish is given to the spectator.

Mr. Walker's drawing is not pleasant, though, like all that he produces, it is unquestionably clever. The subject is called "Autumn" (62), and this is represented by a girl lolling against the trunk of an apple-tree in a position far from graceful; a second figure is introduced, an old man bearing a basket to contain the apples which it is the girl's business, we presume, to gather, though, like many others, she prefers to take her pleasure by being idle. Altogether, we prefer this year the unpretending drawings of Mr. F. Shields, the new associate member, whose careful drawing and quaint humour make his contributions of great value to the society who has judiciously elected him.

We have little space left to speak of J. D. Watson's admirable drawing of "The Duet" (104). Well known already as an accomplished oil painter, Mr. Watson's election is likely to prove of great value to the society; and this, his first and only exhibited drawing, may be taken as an earnest of what we may hereafter expect. We can but refer to Mr. Boyce's mastery of tone as exhibited in all he does, and to Mr. A. Hunt's continued struggles with the most impossible effects—at least on paper—though we willingly admit his honesty of purpose and occasional success, of which "Durham" (214) is the most striking example. The names of Duncan Dodgson, Fd. Tayler, Richardson, Branwhite, Palmer, and many of the elder members of the society, need hardly be mentioned. Their works form the staple of the English school of Water-Colour Painting, and they are too good and too well-

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known to be overlooked, neither does any remarkable example of their work, or change in their manner call for observation from us. These remarks may apply also to the drawings of the younger members, Messrs. Newton, Naftel, Smallfield, Andrews, Jackson, Goodall, Brittan, Willis, and others, whose works are in all respects up to the level of last year's attainments, but seldom reaching beyond it. We may direct attention, however, to a very spirited head of "An Arab Girl" (310) by Mr. Lundgren, and to the truthful drawings of Mr. Rosenberg. The delight we take in this Exhibition is rarely marred by indifferent, never demolished by bad art.

The Royal Academy was opened to the public on the 1st of May. The Exhibition is certainly one of the best that has been produced for many years. We mark a higher general level in the great majority of pictures than has ever before been reached, and this may account, perhaps, for what appears to be the absence of any very striking picture. Landseer exhibits four works; Millais and Leyighton each five. Frith contributes his large picture of the "Royal Marriage." Elmore and Philip are both exhibitors. John Lewis is in great force, and but few of the Academicians are unrepresented. The young men are very strong; Marks, Pettie, Crowe, Orchardson, Jeames, Wynfield, and many more, being recognized by a great advance. But for a few full-length Court portraits of very questionable merit, the portrait element is at least not a disturbing one. We defer till next week a more critical notice of the contents of the Exhibition, the first aspect of which is both pleasant and satisfactory.

ART NOTES.

THE *Art Journal* for May, by way of illustrations, gives Maclise's "Ballad Singer," engraved in the line manner by J. Stephenson; Turner's Lake of Lucerne, engraved by R. Willis; and Foley's statue of Oliver Goldsmith, recently erected at Trinity College, Dublin, engraved by G. Stodart.

CHARLES OOMS, who has just obtained the first prize for painting at the Antwerp Academy, is the son of a peasant at Campen, who, seven years ago, when about ten or twelve years of age, was looked upon as an idle, good-for-nothing lout, and who, instead of attending to his father's cow when sent out to take care of her, would tie her to a tree, and amuse himself all day in making sketches of her in different attitudes and positions, taking her home at night almost starved. By some means, a few of the boy's drawings reached the hands of M. Teickmann, then governor of Antwerp, who, appreciating the native talent they displayed, placed the lad under M. de Keyser, the Director of the Royal Academy of Antwerp, of which Charles Ooms is now one of the most distinguished pupils.

MR. JOHN LEECH's sketches and pictures in oils realized a sum of 6,500*l*.

At the banquet at the Royal Academy, on Saturday last, the President, Sir Charles Eastlake, having coupled the name of the Earl of Derby with the toast in honour of Literature, his lordship happily illustrated the intimate connexion between Poetry and Painting as exemplified in the writings of Homer. "I claim for Homer," said his lordship, "that in no age and no country has any painter surpassed the infinite variety of his achievements. It is not in one branch alone, but it is in historical painting, in landscape, I may say even in portrait painting, he stands almost unrivalled in each and every one of them. If he desires to bring before you an extended group of gods or warriors, or chieftains in debate, he presents a variety and individuality among them that would create the envy of a Maclise, a Herbert, or a Frith. If he desires to represent the ocean in its milder or stormier characters, by a few rapid touches he produces a sketch a Stanfield might look on with envy. He paints a vineyard or harvest home, he bathes the landscape in a flood of light which a Linnell would hardly venture to emulate. And, passing to the wilder features of rural life, the representation of the passions and contests of the brute creation, if he attempts to describe a lion springing at and striking down a bull in the midst of the herd, or a wounded boar turning on his pursuers, or a pack of wolves with blood-stained jaws lapping with their lean tongues the cool surface of some dark-watered fountain, or a wounded panther writhing herself upon the spear that has transfixed her in order to reach her assailant, the few touches which Homer gives bring before the mental eye the whole scene with a life and vigour

which could hardly be equalled by an Ansdell or surpassed by a Landseer."

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON, AND WOODS will sell, on Monday next, the final portion of original sketches of the late J. D. Harding, together with his collection of engravings and his books. On Saturday, the 13th inst., they will commence a six days' sale of the remaining water-colour drawings and oil paintings of the late David Roberts, R.A.; and on the 19th of June they will sell a further portion of drawings and oil paintings by E. W. Cooke, R.A. Yesterday they disposed of sketches, drawings, and contents of the studio of the late W. Dyer, R.A.

MR. JOHN PARRY is exhibiting his drawings and sketches at Mr. M'Lean's Gallery, in the Haymarket, and his position as an artist is by no means second to that which he has long held in the musical world.

MUSIC.

MADAME SCHUMANN—THE MUSICAL UNION AND THE MUSICAL SOCIETY.

MADAME SCHUMANN is a very great artist. This all will admit; and there are not many who will dispute that to her, if to any living executant musician, we may safely award the palm of genius. Whatever genius is or is not, one quality which the world agrees to recognize as among its clearest "notes" is the power of conquering the sympathies of the people whom it addresses. This power Madame Schumann has. We should be sorry to draw the line so sharply as to say that other pianists have it not. No genuine artist can help having his moments of inspiration, moments when the eloquence of his ordinary utterance becomes poetic, and sends a thrill of sympathy through a crowd of listeners. But Madame Schumann seems to have the happy faculty of perpetually keeping in this state of *rapprochement* with her audience. So, at least, it seems to us, after making all allowance for the possible effect of interesting associations and circumstantial claims to respect. To hear Robert Schumann's widow playing Robert Schumann's music is a thing which might well move the souls even—we were going to say of critics. No one, certainly, who had learnt to feel the nobleness of that music, would fail to respond to such an appeal. But, putting circumstance apart, and putting aside the appeal to sympathies more sacred than the artistic, we must yet admit that there is a magic in Madame Schumann's way of handling the keyboard that is given to few. The special power of her fingers, or of the brain which directs them, is a thing which, like the power of Herr Joachim's bow, is easier to feel than to describe; but of its reality we need have no more doubt in one case than in the other. The visible emotion produced on large and by no means demonstrative assemblies, is a sufficient corrective of individual fancy in the matter. Madame Schumann's playing of her husband's great pianoforte quintet, before the "Musical Union" last week, was listened to with an expression of absorbed interest very rarely seen in that audience—an audience which is so accustomed to hear nothing but the best of the best, that the "*nil admirari*" temper almost necessarily becomes its habitual state of mind; and certain little trifles with which she wound up the afternoon—among them an exquisite little "Schlummer-lied" by her husband—held the crowds standing round the piano in a quite spell-bound condition. Again at the "Musical Society's" Concert on Wednesday last, she was received, it must be confessed, rather coolly, so coolly as to show that her audience were by no means too mindful either of the European celebrity of Clara Wiech, or of the yet greater name which she now bears; but with the delivery of the opening bars of that amazing piece of music (Beethoven's Concerto in E) the room seemed to become possessed with a sense of complete satisfaction, relieving alike the scepticism of the wonder-seekers and the dubious suspense of the critics. Yet her charm is not the charm of perfection—for she is not perfect—still less is it a charm of manner, for her manner is disagreeable. Her articulation of the notes is indistinct, partly, no doubt, from lack of digital muscularity, partly, probably, from a tendency to conceive of the music rather in the general than in detail; and her fashion of attacking the keyboard as if the sounds had to be knocked out of it, has an uncouthness which it is hard to get accustomed to. But the listener is soon made to forget these drawbacks. A sense of complete ease, of mastery over both music and instrument

—in spite of the apparent suggestion of the contrary conveyed in the manner of the player—makes him feel that he is in the presence of real genius. There is a quiet strength in the expression of every phrase, which bespeaks the presence of a large intelligence, an intelligence self-controlled enough to subordinate itself to the music, and yet enthusiastic enough to infect other minds with its enthusiasm. This is the secret, so far as we can read it, of Madame Schumann's talent. Among the more obvious characteristics of her playing which one may remark is the extreme beauty of her "touch." This, though it lacks, as has been said, the perfect distinctness and the force with which some other lady fingers that might be named can articulate the most intricate passages, has yet a singularly wide range of power. It is at once vigorous and delicate, and brings out a delightfully round and full tone. None will easily forget, who were present on Wednesday night, the entrancing beauty of the wonderful well-known point in the Allegro of the Concerto, where a passage of distributed harmony in the upper octaves of the piano is accompanied, *pianissimo*, by the sustained notes of the wind-band, or of the whole of that amazing slow movement, than which Beethoven never wrote anything more lovely or more pathetic. No wonder that such playing was rewarded with what, in concert-room language, is called an "ovation." The Musical Society is presumed to be a musical audience, and is not usually profuse of its applause, but on this occasion it broke into a perfect storm of "bravas."

The rest of this concert was made up chiefly of a Symphony by Herr Hiller, of Cologne, composed, it seems, some ten years ago, and now published with a dedication to the Musical Society, a work to be spoken of with respect as the writing of a genuine musician, but scarcely of significance enough to justify its production by the Society, when so much that is of greater interest, new and old, is waiting to be heard.

We must not let slip the opportunity of saying that Mr. Mellon's splendid band is playing more splendidly than ever. Its performance of the overture to "*Oberon*," in particular, was unsurpassably fine.

MUSICAL NOTES.

M. WAGNER'S New Opera, "*Tristan et Isolde*," is to be produced at Munich about the end of the month, the principal parts being filled by M. and Madame Schnorr, who have been engaged specially for the opera. Rehearsals take place nearly every day at the theatre of the palace, with a full orchestra, the king having given up his own band for the purpose. There are only to be three performances of the opera this year; and in a letter to the *Botschafter* Herr Wagner says that the scenery and the costumes are so rich and appropriate, that they seem made rather for an enduring exhibition than for a brief theatrical representation.

THERE is nothing to record as to the opera-houses this week, but the opening of Her Majesty's Theatre on Saturday last. "*La Sonnambula*" was the piece, with a new *Amina* and a new *Elvino*. Neither can be said to have achieved a success. Mr. Santley was the *Count*. The first appearance of Mdle. Patti at the other house has been adjourned for a few days.

At last, after infinite prorogations and contradictory announcements, "*L'Africaine*" has appeared at the Grand Opera. Some day, intelligible notions of what the piece is worth will be impossible. The incidental excitements of its first production have cooled down; but we hope to be able to give our readers presently some account of the music.

By means of the alterations made in the corner galleries at the Crystal Palace, many hundreds of additional seats have been provided on the floor of the Centre Transept. It has been decided by the directors that the Shakespeare House shall be removed, and it is intended to raise the seats near the garden front of the Great Transept.

PROFESSOR BENNETT's symphony was again played at the Philharmonic Concert on Monday. We should be glad to be able to add—in a complete form; that is, *plus* the slow movement, which it is understood that the haste of its production deprived us of. The piece, however, remains as it was last year, and as played since at the Leipsic Gewandhaus.

THE Easter series of rehearsals of the various country contingents of the Handel Festival Choir has just been concluded, and the committee report that the country division of the chorus thus visited was never in a more efficient con-

dition. A similar series of rehearsals will take place at Whitsuntide, and will embrace a further section of the midland, also the south-eastern and northern districts. Several cathedral cities and other important places not hitherto represented will send deputations to the forthcoming festival.

THE music of Monday evening was a sample of the crush of engagements which marks the arrival of the "season." A Popular Concert in St. James's Hall, a "Creation" by the National Choral Society, the Philharmonic in Hanover Square, and an opera in Covent Garden, made the one night's entertainment offered to the amateurs of this big city. Mr. Chappell is carrying on the Popular Concerts with his usual spirit, not only continuing the Saturday morning series, but breaking ground in the suburbs and in distant towns. He announces concerts on the St. James's Hall model at Blackheath and at Manchester.

"DR. LIZST," wrote the *Times* correspondent at Rome a few days back, "is about to enter service in the Church Militant, and takes the tonsure to-day." A rumour to the same effect—a false one, as it soon appeared—obtained currency years ago. This time, we suppose, the story may be accepted, on such good authority, as being too true.

THE "Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts," besides holding very agreeable social gatherings, gives its members the advantages of lectures, which are occasionally, at least, worth attending. Mr. Alfred Gilbert gave one on Thursday evening, at the Architectural Rooms, in Conduit-street, on "Beethoven and his Works," Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Whiffin, and Mr. F. Reilly contributing the musical illustrations.

THE presentation of the "Manns' Testimonial" took place on Saturday at the Crystal Palace, after the repetition performance of the Choral Symphony. The subscribers' meeting was enthusiastic in its reception of the popular conductor, and Mr. Manns, on his part, made a capital speech. Mr. Scott Russell, as chairman, presented the gift, which consisted of a Sévres clock and vases, and a purse of two hundred guineas.

THE new annual programme of the Palace promises for the year just begun all the old attractions, and some new ones. For those who have a little leisure the "season ticket" is still the cheapest guinea's worth of rational pleasure that has ever been devised by man.

MR. COSTA'S "Naaman" is to be brought out on Friday evening at Exeter Hall.

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

MAY 8 to 13.

MONDAY.—Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.
TUESDAY.—Musical Union, Second Matinée, St. James's Hall, 3.30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY.—Metropolitan School Festival, Crystal Palace.
Third New Philharmonic Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY.—Mr. Van Praag's Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.
FRIDAY.—Mr. Halle's Second Recital, St. James's Hall, 3 p.m.
SATURDAY.—Crystal Palace Opera Concert, 3 p.m.
Popular Concert (Joachim, &c.), St. James's Hall, 3 p.m.
Beethoven Society, Willis's Rooms, 3 p.m.
Miss Agnes Zimmerman's Concert, Hanover Square Rooms, 3 p.m.
OPERAS.—Covent Garden, "L'Etoile du Nord," "Lucia," "Rigoletto," &c.
Her Majesty's.

THE DRAMA.

MODERN BURLESQUES—MR. PHELPS IN THE "MAN OF THE WORLD."

WHEN the Dryasdust of the future brings the light of his patient and minute investigation to bear upon portions of that dramatic literature which amused and instructed his ancestors—upon the burlesques and extravaganzas of to-day—as he proceeds with his weary labour, he will find a constantly-increasing difficulty in reconciling the nature of the works which he disinters with the high degree of pleasure which they will appear to have afforded to the critical and fastidious audiences of the nineteenth century. But let us hope that, being a patient Dryasdust, and having that strong reverence for the past which forms the foundation of the antiquary's nature, he will be willing to believe himself, and to persuade others, that the delicate aroma and fine flavour of those terrible witticisms which bewilder him have evaporated as the generation which was pleased with them passed away, and that owing to deficient knowledge and changes in the language,

much of the rich and refined humour which was common on the stage in the reign of Queen Victoria can no longer be understood or appreciated. Let us hope at least that this will be the conclusion of the Dr. Doran of the twenty-first century, as, if unable to comfort himself with this belief, he will have to yield to the conviction—terrible to the mind of any right-thinking scholar—that his forefathers took great delight in witnessing vapid, foolish, and vulgar plays. Possibly, the future historian will use less hard words, and will be able to discover some point in the dashing burlesques of our time; but, leaving him to settle the question with posterity as he may, surely the modern playgoer is entitled to ask for a little relief from what has now become the most peculiarly excruciating of all modern forms of amusement. Burlesque has had a long and undisputed reign; it has flourished and declined, and there was hope that it was about to fall, but its life seems perennial. This Easter there have been four extravaganzas produced, and, in addition to two theatres specially devoted to the production of pieces of this kind, a third has been opened to instil a taste for ladies in tights and men in petticoats into the minds of the dwellers by Tottenham-court-road.

Burlesque in various forms has long occupied a place on the English stage; such things were acted when this century was very young; and Mr. Planché has related how many years ago he wrote his first quaint absurdity, and how *The Times* quoted a line from it in a leading article, much to the delight of the dramatist. Pieces of this sort were, however, for a long time but occasionally represented at the theatres, and, so far as it is possible to judge, must originally have been remarkably stupid—almost as bad as anything that is produced now. When Madame Vestris took the management of the Olympic, now more than thirty years ago, she gave to burlesque a prominence such as it had never before received. Brightly written, put on the stage with an elegance which was then very uncommon, and acted by an efficient company, led by Vestris and Charles Mathews, burlesques proved attractive; and when in after years the same lady assumed the management of the Lyceum, they proved more than attractive, for the Lyceum was for some time the most fashionable theatre in London. Indeed, puerile as such plays must be admitted to be, there are few more pleasing theatrical reminiscences than the recollection of the series of extravaganzas produced there, charmingly written by Mr. Planché, excellently acted, and mounted with an exquisite taste which has never since been equalled. The stage lost Madame Vestris, Mr. Planché's contributions gradually became few and far between, while Mr. Gilbert A'Beckett, the only author who rivalled in his peculiar vein that prince of burlesque writers, had long ceased to compose for the theatre; but there were still among the younger dramatists two *litterateurs*, who brought to the composition of these anomalous productions great ingenuity, some wit, and occasionally a certain poetic feeling. Mr. Robert Brough and Mr. Frank Talfourd both wrote excellent burlesques. The latter gentleman especially, possessed an extraordinary power of punning. Punning in society is simply an execrable nuisance, but to write a dialogue full of good puns is not easy, and Mr. Talfourd's puns were occasionally marvellously ingenious—as good in their way as the rhymes of the "Ingoldsby Legends."

With these two writers, however, the last sparkle and brilliancy vanished from burlesque. None came in their place, the spirit of the thing was gone, and the production should have stopped. Extraganzas were at the best of times a rather childish amusement for grown-up people, and had been thoroughly worked out by bright and clever writers who had fairly exhausted this kind of composition. But British managers are a very conservative class; burlesques had pleased for years, therefore burlesques must be continued *quand même*; good writers were not to be got, therefore they must have bad; and this determination was carried out in a thorough spirit. The production of pieces of this class fell into the hands of gentlemen who had neither wit nor humour, and scarcely the power of rhyming, but who were able, nevertheless, to make two notable discoveries. One was that lines empty of point, but full of slang, delivered by a very pretty girl, will always tell with the audience; the other, that any words will do, if there are plenty of brisk tunes followed by negro dances. To write verses, or make jokes, was not within the power of these writers, but they had a competent knowledge of slang, and a thorough acquaintance with

music-hall tunes, and from these materials they have constructed, and continue to construct burlesques which please the audiences of St. James's and the Strand. Let it be hoped that before long these entertainments will begin to pall, and that they will be found to have, in addition to vulgarity and coarseness, the one unpardonable fault of dulness. Perhaps in time audiences will discover that there is nothing so very enchanting in seeing a pretty girl, very scantily dressed, capering about the stage in what is, after all, but a tame imitation of her great original, Rigolboche—that there is nothing to cause extatic delight in the sight of a middle-aged man dressed as a woman, with short petticoats and a flaxen wig. Possibly these discoveries may be made, and modern burlesque, with all its rising dulness, may disappear. This may be; but the apparent success of many of the pieces lately produced gives little ground for hoping that this will soon happen.

To provide for those whom dull frivolity has driven from most of the theatres has been of late the meritorious effort of the managers of Drury-lane; and if the intention has been better than the execution, it must be remembered that the failure has been owing, not to any want of energy on their part, but to the impossibility which at present exists of finding actors fit to perform in any of the great plays. But the attempt to keep up the "legitimate drama" continues, and Mr. Phelps has been performing *Wolsey* since Easter, and on Monday last appeared in his old character of *Sir Pertinax Macmystophant* in Macklin's well-known play. Mr. Phelps's power of performing the great Shakespearian characters has of late been most energetically denied, in our columns, by a vigorous writer, who even goes so far as to refuse to allow any merit as an actor to the late manager of Sadler's Wells. No doubt Mr. Phelps does not deserve such sweeping condemnation as this, but nevertheless, his judicious admirers would do a service to him if they could persuade him to abandon several of the parts in which he most frequently comes before the public. During his long career at Sadler's Wells, Mr. Phelps produced many of Shakespeare's plays, and played a very great number of parts; many of them, it must be added, badly, but some exceedingly well. To introduce Shakespeare into Pentonville, and to bring out his dramas without the aid of gorgeous scenery, was very naturally regarded as a great proof of devotion to art, and most people were content to take the actor's merit for granted, and to call him a great tragedian, without ever going to see him. But now that Mr. Phelps has been for some time the leader of the Drury-lane company, it has been discovered that, whatever his powers may be, he has defects so great as to render his performance of some parts almost unbearable; whilst in others wherein he had formerly been much admired he is generally considered to have declined. On Monday night his *Sir Pertinax* was a singularly unequal performance. In the first three acts it was difficult to find anything to admire. There was no variety, no flexibility; his voice and manner when scolding his son or cringing before *Lord Lumbarcourt* were the same, except that he literally carried out the precepts of *Sir Pertinax*, and "boomed and boomed" to his patron every half minute; and his accent, too, intended to be Scotch, was unlike anything that ever came from the mouth of either Lowlander or Highlander. All this was extremely disappointing, and would amply justify severe condemnation, but in the latter portion of the performance some flashes of the old fire showed themselves, and no one accustomed to good acting could have witnessed the fourth and fifth acts without feeling that the unequal actor before him still retained considerable power of a very peculiar kind. At all events, Mr. Phelps is better in this character than in several others which he is fond of playing, and in which injudicious friends allow him to consider himself pre-eminent; and if he will play *Sir Pertinax* oftener, *Brutus* and *Wolsey* less frequently, and *Macbeth* not at all, he will be doing some service to the legitimate drama generally, and also to Shakespeare's plays.

Another event of some dramatic importance has occurred at Drury-lane, during this week. An elaborate play, the work of Mr. Falconer, was produced on Wednesday night. "Love's Ordeal; or, the Old and New Régime," will be noticed at length on a future occasion.

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